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Colorado Springs Independent

Actually, it's just love

As civil unions move forward in Colorado, same-sex couples keep on keepin' on 17

By Kirsten Akens

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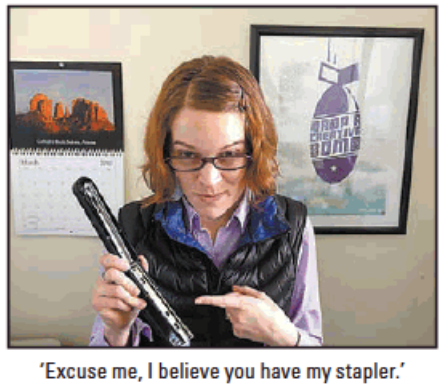

'Excuse me, I believe you have my stapler.'

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James McMurtry doesn't necessarily think of himself as a political songwriter, but he's gotten pretty used to other people thinking that. Especially in the aftermath of "We Can't Make It Here," a state-of-the-union indictment that the acerbic singer-songwriter distributed as a free download during the 2004 presidential campaign.

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On the Cover
Design by art director Kathy Conarro.

UpComing

In honor of St. Valentine, we've got a super-secret code for you for $5 off any one purchase at **Garden of the Goods** (goods.csindy.com) thru the Valentine's weekend. If you're behind on your V-Day shopping, check out the goods now: romantic dinners, relaxing massages, hotel stays ... just enter "IndyLoveBites" to save.

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Jeremy Wheatley

Bingo Burger
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Angela Bramibla

Be a Winner!

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie. Oi! Oi! Oi!
Australian band Gold Fields hits the stage at the Black Sheep on its way to playing *Jimmy Kimmel Live* this February. Enter at csindy.com to win a pair of tickets through the IndyBlast.

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"I am not a member of any organized party...I am a democrat"

-Will Rogers

SliceOfLife

Bryan Oller

The fauna eyes the recovering flora near Majestic Drive. Where fire once raged, for this moment, snow begins to fall on a peaceful Sunday afternoon.

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Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Eat at home

I read through Bryce Crawford's piece titled "Springs chefs pick their favorites" (*Bites*, Feb. 6). What a great piece. Short. To the point. Informational.

I was disappointed, however, in the number of chefs whose "go-to" spot is in Denver. Really? In a state that encourages local fare, your go-to spot is an hour away?

I realize their opinion may differ from mine. Frankly, my go-to spot is probably in Denver, too. Actually, it's in a different state. But if the local media asks me about the restaurant scene, I will come up with a local spot.

The article illustrates the state of Springs cuisine. The local restaurants have a lot to offer, but little support. We can defer to the diamonds at The Broadmoor, but that doesn't support a community. Colorado Springs has the culinary talent to produce a good product, and the citizens have the palate to recognize quality. Why isn't the restaurant scene better? I don't know, but it doesn't have to be that way.

My family recently moved here from a city with a lively restaurant scene, and we have struggled to find the local vibe. We find glimmers of hope, but can't develop a roster of fail-safe dining and I know why. It's too conventional. Several chefs in Crawford's article mentioned consistency as their basis for their go-to place. I love consistency, but I don't want redundancy.

If you're concerned with a consistent menu, then you are doomed to a stuffy menu. Get outside the box. Stare in the face of failure and risk success.

I don't want a safe restaurant. I want a restaurant to taunt me to try something different. I want a cocktail that doesn't have sweet-and-sour. Is that too much to ask?

— Jonathan Berry
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Colin is not as shy as Clinton. He was in the Oval Office and he was racing around pretty good; and sampled a number of the apples, before he found the one that was just right.'

— President Obama joking about the young son of a former staff sergeant at Fort Carson, Clinton Romesha, who received the Medal of Honor at the White House.

Hands off Palmer

Dear Ralph,

Are you fucking nuts? Dumping a top-rated high school (Palmer) to reinvent a failing school that has been circling the drain for years (Wasson) to make room for a downtown presence of UCCS ("UCCS inspires new thinking," Between the Lines, Feb. 6)?

Maybe instead of taking over Palmer, Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak should avail herself of the many empty storefronts along Tejon Street. Then again, they might fit on Nevada across from the Pioneers Museum; that makes about as much sense.

— Dana Keys
Colorado Springs

A well-mannered dog

After reading Jessica Hunter-Larsen's letter ("Unleashing heartbreak," Feb. 6), it occurred to me that even in the most professional of dog shows, all dogs, no matter how sweet or well-behaved and trained, are on a leash.

I walk my dog every day and am constantly bombarded with pets off leash and the typical owner response, "Don't worry, our dog is friendly." Please consider that the leash is intended to protect your dog as well!

A well-trained dog on a leash is a sight to behold and one of pride. An off-leash dog in public areas other than designated parks or one's own yard is not only potentially dangerous but shows a lack of respect on the owner's part.

I am saddened by the story and only hope the owner of the offensive dog took some financial responsibility in the matter, although Jessica's story makes it sound otherwise.

— Alan Joseph
Colorado Springs

Bremer's bunk

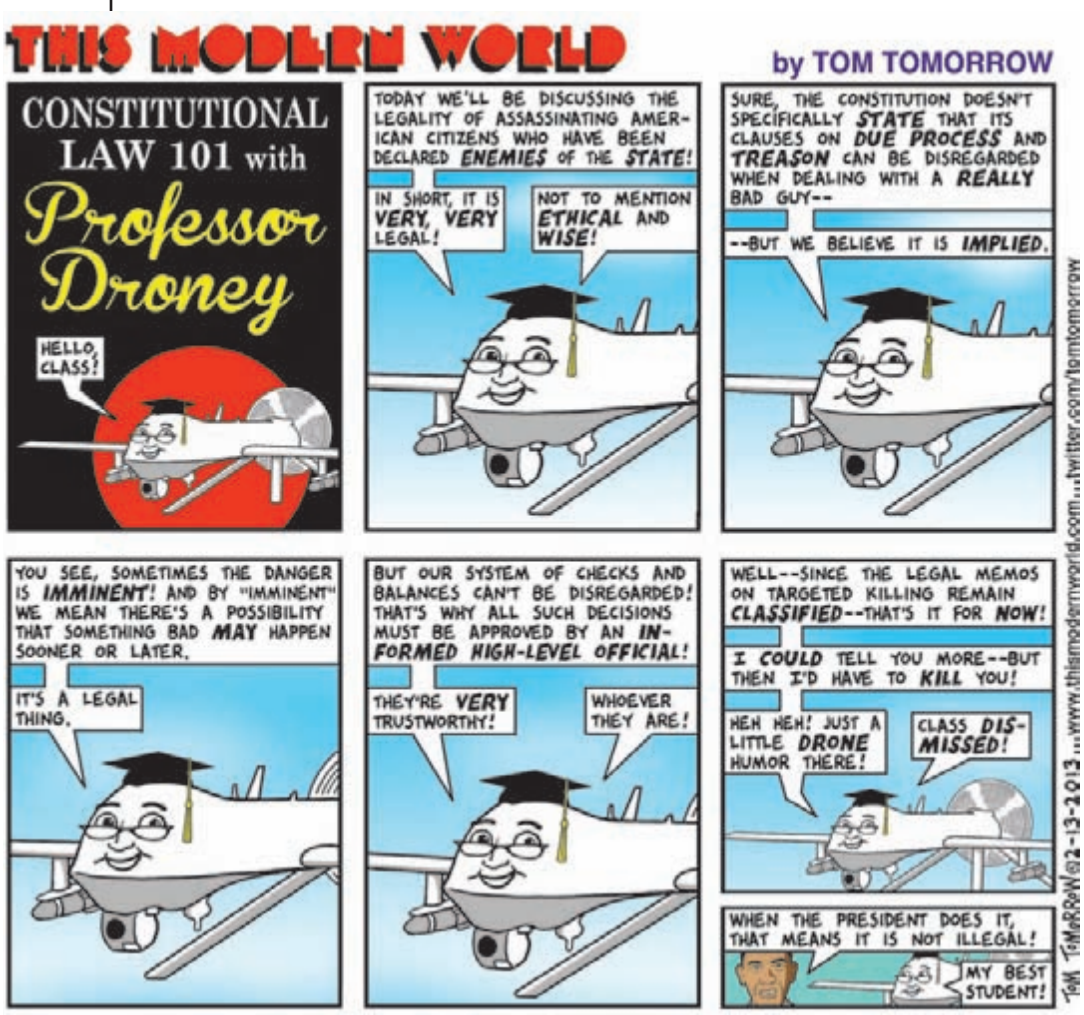
Duncan Bremer's suggestion to county commissioners that the county ban birth-control pills as an insurance-covered benefit to the county's female employees ("County advised on how to deny birth control," IndyBlog, Jan. 31) is absolutely astonishing.

1. This seems to be spawning off the Plan B objection on the basis of some websites alluding to an ovum already fertilized and not being implanted, of which there is not a single case of evidence. In spite of some websites not being accurately up-to-date, coupled with leading U.S. scientists saying this is pure bunk, they are quoted as though they were gospel. A more in-depth report can be found in an article written by Pam Belluck, the science journalist for *The New York Times*.

2. Current and long-standing legislation does not allow the government to pay for any abortion-causing substances, or abortions. This is the Hyde Amendment. No paid-for abortions except in the case of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

3. Inasmuch as we've already sent messages of bias and intolerance to outlying businesses who otherwise might want to expand their business and investment interests here, do we really want to sound stupid, too?

We're seen as too often voting against tax increases that would improve our city's services and infrastructure, being anti-gay and pompously religious, and promoting strong religious-right organizations that pay no taxes but add plenty to our pious image, led by politicians who would deceive us on term limitations and stand against the will of


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 101 with Professor Droney
HELLO, CLASS!
TODAY WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE LEGALITY OF ASSASSINATING AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN DECLARED ENEMIES OF THE STATE!
IN SHORT, IT IS VERY, VERY LEGAL!
NOT TO MENTION ETHICAL AND WISE!
SURE, THE CONSTITUTION DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT ITS CLAUSES ON DUE PROCESS AND TREASON CAN BE DISREGARDED WHEN DEALING WITH A REALLY BAD GUY--
--BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPLIED.
YOU SEE, SOMETIMES THE DANGER IS IMMINENT! AND BY "IMMINENT" WE MEAN THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETHING BAD MAY HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.
IT'S A LEGAL THING.
BUT OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES CAN'T BE DISREGARDED! THAT'S WHY ALL SUCH DECISIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY AN INFORMED HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL!
THEY'RE VERY TRUSTWORTHY!
WHOEVER THEY ARE!
WELL--SINCE THE LEGAL MEMOS ON TARGETED KILLING REMAIN CLASSIFIED--THAT'S IT FOR NOW!
I COULD TELL YOU MORE--BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU!
HEH HEH! JUST A LITTLE DRONE HUMOR THERE!
CLASS DISMISSED!
WHEN THE PRESIDENT DOES IT, THAT MEANS IT IS NOT ILLEGAL!
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LongStoryShort

Many, many same-sex couples turned down my request to be interviewed for this week's cover package (beginning on p. 17).

Whether it was because one partner or the other wasn't completely out of the closet, or because they'd dealt with too much hate over the years and harbored considerable fear, whatever the reason, I heard a lot more "no" than "yes" as I made my way down the list.

It made perfect sense that someone would say no. And it's why I want to say thank you to the four couples who enthusiastically said yes — who agreed to open their private lives to me.

Their relationships were a beautiful thing to observe. One limitation to print is that it's hard to express with words shared moments experienced. The way Stuart settled his foot on top of Rick's. How Dara and Lauren wrapped arms and squeezed, both grinning at one another.

The love between each of these four couples was palpable.

As Valentine's Day arrives, a day that's become for many over-commercialized and pressure-filled, take a moment to sit down with these stories and let them settle into your heart.

What opens up there just might surprise you.

— Kirsten Akens

Get Involved has moved to Volunteer Opportunities (p. 40) for the week.

the people who voted to legalize recreational marijuana.

4. The county commissioners know that the county government can't pass as a religious institution, the only allowed exemption in the Affordable Care Act.

It's time to let our commissioners know that women see this as pure rubbish.

— Micheale Duncan
Monument

Fear of family

Last week's issue featured a letter whose author is apparently terrified (inexplicably) of civil unions ("No adoption option," Feb. 6). Thinly cloaking his argument in language about adoption and religious persecution, the writer is merely demonizing homosexuals.

Raising responsible children is a demanding yet rewarding endeavor, which anyone desiring children should be able to experience. To argue that only a married man and woman should have the right to have children is a pretty shallow argument.

I know several kids that are being raised in "non-traditional" settings, by same-sex couples and by single moms who wanted children. They are all regular kids from loving homes — respectful, smart, funny kids, doing all the usual kid stuff — music lessons, art shows, sports, school plays and spelling bees. Isn't this what we would hope for our children, what all children deserve — to grow up being loved and nurtured in a safe home environment?

Surely a child from a broken or abusive home, one who has lost parents or suffered other tragic circumstances, would benefit from a stable, loving home regardless of the marital status or gender make-up of their adoptive parents. Interracial marriage was once frowned heavily upon. This, too, shall pass.

— Dan Wiencek
Colorado Springs

Economics test

Sequestration and military cutbacks at local military installations should be welcome news for local conservatives. Less federal government money will pour into El Paso County. A perfect test that will prove Keynesian government employment policies don't work in a weak economy. Great news for the county that voted for Rick Santorum in the GOP primary and will probably vote for Paul Ryan in 2016.

One can now expect local unemployment to drop as federal military dollars evaporate. As we have been taught by important suits who know best, one can expect this to be a big boom as the private sector is freed to make much greater investment in Colorado Springs. This will certainly trickle down throughout the county.

This should be good! See you in church. Bring your automatic rifles.

— Jonathan Reilly
Colorado Springs

Drought and poison

Colorado Springs will be on watering restrictions by April 1. In mid-January, snowpack was about 50 percent of what it should be. Our reservoirs were about 40 percent of normal. Forecasts predict continued drought, statewide water shortages, and another very scary fire season.

How, then, can Colorado Springs Utilities justify selling vast amounts of water (see "Drilling in a drought," p. 14) to oil companies for hydraulic fracturing?

Each frack will use approximately 5 million gallons of fresh water which will be permanently contaminated by toxic chemicals. Oil companies have resisted disclosing the contents of fracking fluid, but most chemicals have been identified as endocrine-disruptors and/or carcinogens.

Some toxic water remains underground, and some returns to the surface, risking contamination of aquifers, wells and creeks. The original water is "used to extinction" meaning it will be too poisoned to return to the water supply. In El Paso County, reaching oil and gas will require drilling through up to four separate aquifers — aquifers tapped by citizens and farms for fresh well water.

Other states have had problems with the chemicals poisoning their ground water. Drilling has begun, yet questions about safety, air and water quality, and water availability haven't been addressed. We owe it to future generations to set strict regulations to protect our resources. Please write to elected officials with your concerns. It's our water, our air and our home!

— Nicole Rosa
Colorado Springs

Power up

Getting rid of Martin Drake Power Plant without another power source in place to provide electricity at equal or cheaper cost is insipid! It is a clean plant that conforms to government regulations. It can be made a more efficient electrical provider by utilizing the heat loss via the smokestack and other end-stage heat-loss processes.

Several companies will provide free Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) energy-recovery units to recover the heat-loss energy and make additional electricity.

Opportunities exist whereby a company will freely provide the city with LED street lighting and will take a percentage of savings of electrical cost. LED bulbs are energy-efficient and long-lasting, saving manpower time on replacement.

Heat-recovery generated by landfills is also a source of electricity (Red Rock Canyon and other old landfills). The land could be covered for solar power generation.

Colorado Springs is behind the eight ball in its acceptance of newer electrical saving potentials.

— Brian Miller
Colorado Springs

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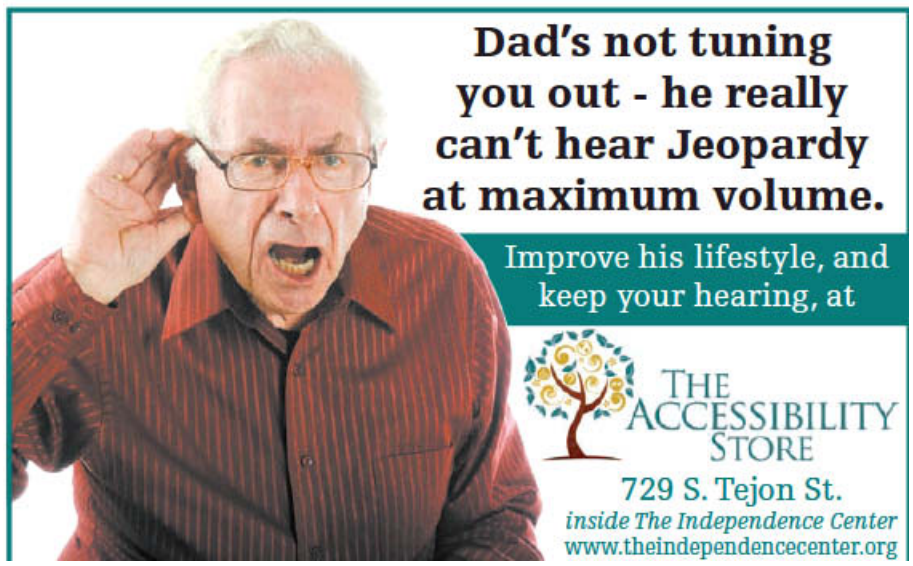
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CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Early odds on Council races

Did you do it for love? Did you do it for money? Did you do it for spite? Did you think you had to, honey?

Who is gonna make it? We'll find out in the long run. — Eagles, 1975

For the 2013 City Council elections, it'll be a very short run. Ballots go to voters in mid-March, so at this point candidates have just a month to get their messages out. With 24 candidates vying for six district seats, the political calculus is brutally simple:

You need money or name recognition, and preferably both.

Obvious as that is, few candidates appear to have paid any heed. It's hard to understand why some are running, other than simple vanity. But the price of entry is low. Collect 50 signatures, fill out a few forms and you're a candidate.

It's democracy at its best, a merry free-for-all.

It's democracy at its best, a merry free-for-all, a **Fannie Mae Duncan** party — everybody welcome!

There's no Vegas line on our elections, but here are some odds. Just remember, these are fantasy odds — not endorsements. Note that the highest odds are 25-1. I honestly don't want to embarrass anyone by making them 10,000-1.

• District 1: **Joe Barrera**, **Don Knight**, **Tim Leigh**, **Linda Mojer** and **Julie Naye** have entered. Mojer, Naye and Knight are unknown quantities. Barrera has long been active in local politics and civic life, and is a credible candidate — enough that the Media Trackers attack dog nonprofit ran a long, disparaging piece last month characterizing him as a "liberal activist." Knight has loaned his campaign $1,500 and has political strategist **Sarah Jack** helping him, so he's serious. Yet incumbent Leigh will be hard to beat. Leigh 1-1, Barrera 5-1, Knight 10-1, Mojer and Naye 25-1.

• District 2: **Angela Dougan**, **Joel Miller** and **Bill Murray**. Dougan has money, incumbency and conservatives' affection in a very conservative district. Dougan 1-1, Murray 10-1, Miller 25-1.

• District 3: **Jim Bensberg**, **Tom Gallagher**, **Keith King**, **Bob Kinsey** and **Brandy Williams**. What a delicious goat rope! An incumbent, three former elected officials, and the 2010 Green Party candidate for the U.S. Senate. King is first out of the gate with a sophisticated, well-financed effort, but Bensberg and Williams will be as aggressive. Gallagher and Kinsey just entered, so it's hard to imagine either finding enough support. Without Kinsey, Williams would be favored — but any votes for him will come from her base. King 2-1, Williams 3-1, Bensberg 4-1, Gallagher 15-1, Kinsey 25-1.

• District 4: **Helen Collins**, **Gary Flakes**, **Deborah Hendrix** and **Dennis Moore**. Hendrix has reasonable name recognition and support from the political establishment. That should be enough, unless former "Reform Team" candidate Collins musters enough conservative backing. Hendrix 2-1, Collins and Moore 8-1, Flakes 25-1.

• District 5: **Jill Gaebler**, **Bernie Herpin**, **Al Loma** and **Roger McCarville**. Ordinarily, Herpin would be a lock. He's been a thoughtful, steady voice on Council who has never strayed from the Main Street conservatism that Springs voters usually prefer in their elected officials. But thanks to redistricting, he has formidable opponents in Loma and Gaebler. Loma picked up the Housing and Building Association's endorsement, but Gaebler should run strongly in the North End and attract support from women, independents and moderates. Gaebler 4-1, Herpin and Loma 5-1, McCarville 25-1.

• District 6: **Ed Bircham**, **David Moore**, **Andres Pico**. Almost by default, Moore is the establishment candidate. A soft-spoken pastor who has lived in Colorado Springs since 2008, he received the HBA's endorsement because ... well, because he filed early and showed up for the interview. Conservative businessman Bircham has money and name recognition, and can't be counted out despite his well-chronicled eccentricities. Moore 4-1, Bircham 7-1, Pico 10-1.

Is there an overall narrative? Yes. It's men against women, youth against age, the future struggling to be born.

Imagine a Council with Julie Naye, Angela Dougan, Brandy Williams, Deborah Hendrix, Jill Gaebler and David Moore. Now imagine one with Tim Leigh, Bill Murray, Tom Gallagher, Dennis Moore, Al Loma and Ed Bircham.

No disrespect to my fellow geezers, but somebody might follow the lead of pro sports. Successful franchises get younger and faster — and in a footrace, the five women and David Moore would kick some butt ...

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Sweet tart

Valentine's Day brings to mind romance, love and marriage. But in most states, the right to be legally bound to your lifetime partner is an exclusive one.

Carolyn Cosby from the ***northeast side*** is ***retired***

What are your thoughts on civil unions being reconsidered in Colorado? Personally, I'm uncomfortable with it in some respects.

How would you characterize the progress being made in the struggle for gay rights? Rapid. I think there's been rapid progress over the last 10 years on a national level.

What are the chances you'll see same-sex marriage legalized on a national level in your lifetime? I'd say there's a chance; maybe 50/50.

Have you seen very many gay couples out in Colorado Springs? No, I've never noticed any.

What's your best Valentine's Day memory? In the primary grades in school, when we made our own Valentine boxes and exchanged those little cards.

Drew Soucy from the ***west side*** works in ***retail***

What are your thoughts about civil unions being proposed again in Colorado? I feel like everyone should have the freedom to do whatever they want to do in that regard.

Do you think same-sex marriage could become legal in your lifetime? Yes, definitely in my lifetime. I don't think a president will be elected in the future if he or she is against it.

Have you noticed very many same-sex couples in Colorado Springs? A few, but I could count them on one hand.

Do you have a favorite Valentine's Day memory? When I was in the sixth grade, I rode my skateboard to my girlfriend's house and gave her candy and a stuffed animal. She gave me a hat.

Machelle Nelson from the ***east side*** is a ***stay-at-home mom***

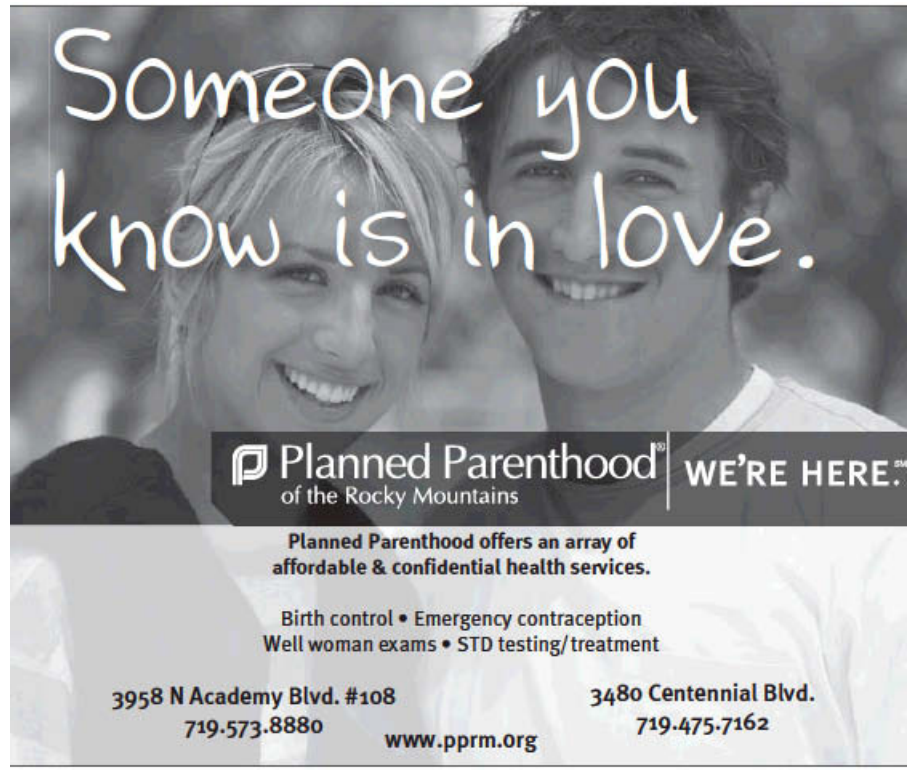
How do you feel about civil unions being reconsidered in Colorado? I'm not for it. I'm a Christian, and I don't believe it's of God.

How would you characterize the progress being made in the struggle for gay rights? It's a lot more accepted now. It's all over TV and in the media in general. I see a movement in the U.S. to get away from God, and I'm scared of what the world's becoming.

Do you think we'll see same-sex marriage legalized nationwide in your lifetime? I think it's very possible, since it's already in some states.

So for you, what's your best Valentine's Day memory? When I had my son! His birthday is 2/11 and I was still in the hospital on Valentine's Day.

— Kendall Kullman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Between the Lines

By Ralph Routon

Garcia: Our rising star

On the list of Colorado Springs' perpetual priorities, having insiders with influence in Washington, D.C., always should rank at or near the top.

Such is life when your city depends so much on governmental support.

So it has come as quite a surprise over the past two weeks that nobody here seems to care much about **Joe Garcia** being talked about as President **Barack Obama**'s likely nominee to become the next secretary of Labor.

In his three-plus years as Colorado's lieutenant governor, Garcia has maintained a low profile — not surprising, considering that he has concurrently served as executive director of the state Department of Higher Education. Yet some Denver contacts have suggested that Garcia might have been more influential (and perhaps happier) in his previous two jobs, as president of Colorado State University-Pueblo and Pikes Peak Community College.

Garcia, who turns 56 next month, surfaced in late January as a possible choice for Labor secretary. That led some to speculate that, as a Latino, Garcia was a convenient response to early criticism of Obama's second-term Cabinet appointees, who are mostly white. In truth, as media reports quickly uncovered, the White House had begun checking into Garcia shortly after the president was re-elected in November.

The White House began checking into him early on.

It's arguable that Garcia might have been better-qualified for other Cabinet posts, but Education Secretary **Arne Duncan** isn't leaving, and neither is **Kathleen Sebelius** in Health and Human Services. Then again, with his higher-ed credentials, and given the Department of Labor's priority to improve the nation's workforce, perhaps this is the best fit. (Let's also not forget that, after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Garcia graduated from law school at Harvard, then served in Gov. **Roy Romer**'s administration during the 1990s.)

Regardless, another important point has been missed: It's not every day that any city or area has a champion being considered for the Cabinet, which means being inside the brain trust that runs our federal government. When something happens, like a hurricane, a major military operation or even the Waldo Canyon Fire, those leaders have a seat at the table deciding how to respond.

That's what Garcia could become for Colorado Springs and the rest of the state.

This rises far above political affiliations. Sure, as a Democrat, Garcia might differ from the majority in El Paso County. But he has spent much time in Colorado Springs during his professional life, and he still has a residence here with his wife **Claire Oberon Garcia**, who has taught English at Colorado College since 1991. He cares about our region and understands what makes the economy work.

He could be in a position to intervene, for example, and prevent others from generalizing negatively about Colorado Springs whenever somebody like U.S. Rep. **Doug Lamborn** takes an offensive stance (such as blowing off a State of the Union speech).

Another possible scenario: As delicate as the military's funding and future are, it would be easy to imagine some inside Obama's administration seeing conservative Colorado Springs as unworthy of favors in the military's next Base Realignment and Closure process. Yet, an ally within the "inner circle" could be proactive if necessary on behalf of our city and its attributes — just as you'd expect Homeland Security Secretary **Janet Napolitano** to defend Arizona, or Sebelius to fight for Kansas.

Those who have watched Garcia through the years would surely agree that, based on his career path, all he really wants is to make a difference. That's exactly what he has done, from various nonprofit boards here to his higher-ed roles. Being part of Obama's Cabinet would provide Garcia's best opportunity yet. He could help make changes happen nationally, and in specific areas such as immigration reform. And whenever Colorado Springs sends emissaries to D.C., he would become No. 1 on their contact list.

This is a big deal, just as it was for Colorado when former U.S. Sen. **Ken Salazar** became Interior secretary during the president's first term. It doesn't mean, as Labor secretary, Garcia would carry the water for this region on a constant basis. But nobody should complain about having someone with such close ties to Colorado Springs inside the Cabinet.

And who knows where he might go after that?

— routon@csindy.com

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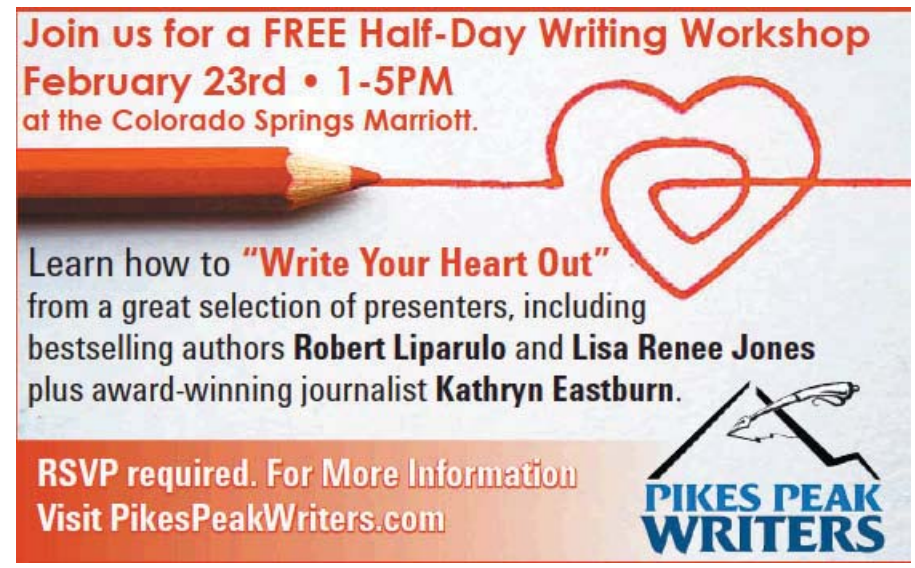
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(Making sure) the kids are alright

With Wasson closing, D-11 turns its attention to students being uprooted at a delicate time

By J. Adrian Stanley

Aaron Shoemaker doesn't have to look.

Bradley Flora

Wasson football rules at the Shoemaker's. Aaron, his brother and dad all played here.

His feet know where to fall, where to lead. Down the well-worn footpaths, up the old concrete stairs, through the gate and the open field, and finally to the paths that lead to the football field. Decades of kids before him have known these paths, too. They have traced them to attend football games or practices, or to head back to class after PE.

But when school lets out this summer, Wasson High School will begin a new path. And kids like 17-year-old Aaron won't be there.

Under the direction of the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education, Wasson High School will close at the end of the year, and be reborn next school year as a hub for the district's alternative, early college and tech programs.

Aaron likely would have been captain of the football team next year. Now he and his classmates will have to find other schools.

"Some things [have] been difficult," Aaron says. "I wish they'd have kept Wasson open, just because it is the right size of classrooms, there's not too many students in them. And as far as athletics go, a lot of fun happened and a lot of camaraderie with the people you meet."

Leaving Wasson as he's heading into his senior year means that Aaron won't get a chance to beat rival Mitchell High School in his senior-year football game. He won't know the other kids on his track team. And he may lose the Navy ROTC scholarship he was hoping would put him through college.

D-11 Superintendent Nicholas Gledich, who led the charge to close three schools, including Wasson and two elementary schools, will now have to decide how to help uprooted kids like Aaron. "Imagine how difficult that is for a student right now to swallow," Gledich says. "It's not easy."

'Different' school

Aaron says he always knew Wasson was in danger of closing. He came anyway.

Going to Wasson, and playing Wasson football, is a family tradition. Aaron's older brother played, as did his father. Their pictures and trophies are still scattered around the school.

That may be part of why Aaron stayed at Wasson this year, even though he was beginning to feel that the school would certainly close soon. The other reason was that he believed the district had made a commitment.

"They've talked about [closing] for several years, [but] they also talked about the five-year plan," Aaron says. "I would have already graduated [by the time Wasson closed] if they'd have stuck to that plan."

Gledich says the record clearly shows that no promise was made to keep Wasson open for a specific length of time. But there's also no doubt that the board discussed a five-year plan for Wasson in 2009. And Aaron says a lot of his classmates counted on that.

Now, Aaron's not sure where he's going to school. He may go to whatever D-11 school ends up hosting the Navy ROTC program — that would allow him to possibly get that scholarship and pursue an engineering degree in college. Eventually, he hopes to be a Navy SEAL.

"All you can really do is find your best option and just act on it," he says.

While Aaron, a quiet and serious boy, seems to have accepted that Wasson will soon be gone, his mother, Elaine, is still cringing.

"Wasson is a different kind of school," she says. "The kids are so accepting of each other. And you hear testimony after testimony of kids saying, 'You know what? I would have been to jail, but I came to Wasson.'"

Softer landing

Under Gledich's instruction, the district's remaining four high school principals have been meeting to decide how best to welcome Wasson's kids, as well as kids who may have to switch high schools when D-11 changes boundaries later this month.

The district plans to offer Wasson kids individualized attention from staff and counselors to aid in their transition. Other ideas include leaving spots open on sports teams, in school clubs, and in student government. There's talk of allowing Wasson kids to graduate with a Wasson diploma and cap and gown, and finding a way to honor those who would have been Wasson's Class of 2014 valedictorian and salutatorian. Spring meet-and-greets, open houses and special welcoming days are also in the works.

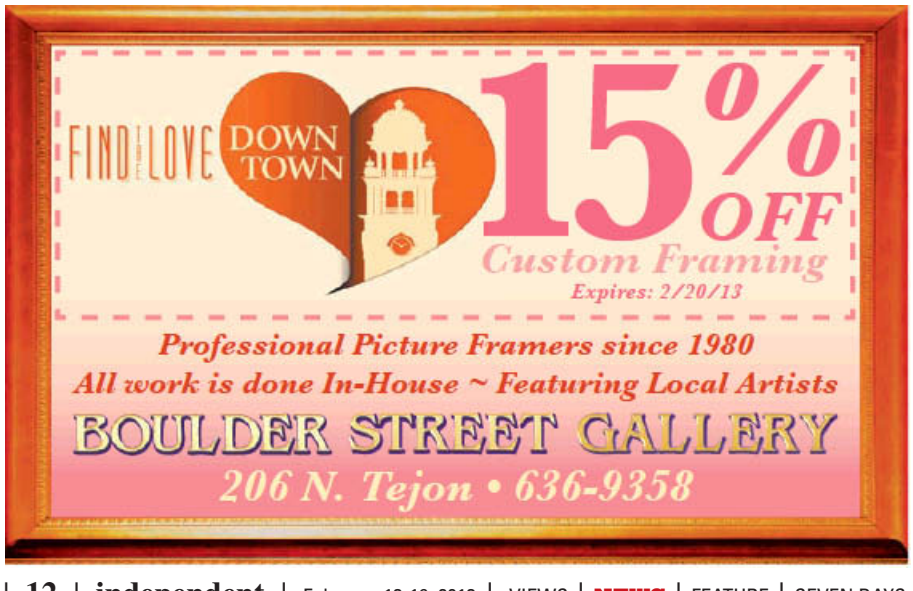
"When you close a school or you reboundary a school, what you're doing is you're merging cultures together," Gledich says. "And you have to have a plan in place so that new cultures are accepted."

One of the principals who's been planning for the change is Dennis Vigil, principal of Doherty High School. He says he also had to switch high schools as a teen, so he understands how Wasson's kids feel. The district, he says, is working to make sure Wasson kids get their first choice of the remaining high schools, and that they feel comfortable.

"We're going to do what we can to make sure all of those kids are welcomed," he says.

Aaron says he thinks the district can help with the adjustment, and he hopes it follows through on all the things that have been talked about. But after watching what happened with Wasson, he's skeptical: "I'll believe it when I see it."

— stanley@csindy.com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Den of controversy

The fight for equality in the Boy Scouts is an old one — as shown through a former local's lens

By J. Adrian Stanley

When *Scout's Honor* was being filmed, its timing seemed perfect.

The movement to change Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay participants had real momentum, having already been legally challenged twice, once successfully. The U.S. Supreme Court was preparing to rule on the issue.

But that wasn't why Tom Shepard, a Colorado Springs native living in San Francisco, had decided to document the struggle. He was moved by a newspaper story of a young boy living in a rural city who had taken up the cause despite ridicule and resistance. The boy was straight.

Tom Shepard delved into the Boy Scouts in the 1990s.

All Shepard could think was, "What motivates a non-gay person to kind of stick their neck out for gay people?"

The story of 13-year-old Steven Cozza was powerful. When *Scout's Honor* was released in 2001, it won the Audience Award for Best Documentary and the Freedom of Expression Award at the Sundance Film Festival and the Grand Prize for Nonfiction Film at the USA Film Festival. And when it aired on PBS, the backlash was fierce — PBS' online commenting function was so overwhelmed it had to be temporarily shut down.

Many on the right characterized the film as "homosexual propaganda" and shunned PBS for airing it. Shepard, now 43, says he read only some of the "vitriolic" and "nasty" comments PBS received. He couldn't bear to read them all.

Slow to change

A lot has changed since then, but not the Boy Scouts. They haven't had to. While Shepard edited his film, the Supreme Court decided 5-4 in the Scouts' favor, ruling that as a private organization, they had a right under the Constitution's "freedom of association" clause to discriminate.

Little controversies bubbled up during the next decade, but it took until early this year for the Scouts to be involved in talk about dropping the national ban, and allowing individual troops to make their own policies.

Then last week, days before an expected announcement, the organization backed away, putting off a decision until May. A *New York Times* story says leaders intended to make the decision quietly, but a leak led to unwanted public discourse on the topic and the delay.

To Shepard, who was once a Boy Scout (albeit, he says, not a very dedicated one), the thought of the policy continuing is upsetting.

"It sends a very, very strong message to young kids ... that there is something about you that is pathological or wrong or damaging," he says. "Versus, 'You're OK, like any other kid.' And kids share those messages loud and clear."

But Shepard isn't wholly surprised that the Boy Scouts haven't budged. On the one hand, he's been shocked at how quickly the rest of the world has changed since 2001, from allowing gays in the military to the legalizing of gay marriage in several states. His own alma mater, Palmer High School — where he never felt "safe" enough to come out the closet in the 1980s — now has a gay-straight alliance.

The Boy Scouts seem to be different, he says, perhaps because churches often run troops. The Scouts have especially strong ties to the Mormon Church, which clearly hasn't welcomed the LGBT community. More liberal denominations, particularly Unitarian Universalist churches, have had strained relations with the Scouts for decades.

At a more grassroots level, Shepard found that scouting is, and always has been, fiercely local. Many troops, he says, operate more on a "don't ask, don't tell' model, knowingly allowing beloved gay scoutmasters and scouts to participate so long as they're not too vocal about their sexual preference.

But just as DADT wasn't a satisfying compromise for LGBT military members, it didn't seem like a fair deal to Cozza. The boy started Scouting for All, a nonprofit that continues advocacy work today, with a few handmade signs and a petition at the Lucky Supermarket in his hometown of Petaluma, Calif. He had the support of his parents, friends, his troop leader and his mentor, a gay man who had been Cozza's church-camp counselor.

But his activities with Scouting for All splintered his troop, and even en route to becoming an Eagle Scout, Cozza experienced a cruel backlash. The Scouts booted Cozza's dad, who served as assistant scoutmaster, and Cozza's scoutmaster, Tim Rice.

Rice, a senior citizen who had been involved in the Scouts since childhood, was heartbroken.

"You never know what it's like to get that letter until you open the envelope and read it," Rice says in the film. "And then it's the only time you can understand what it must have been like for Tim Curran."

A long history

Curran was the first person to challenge the Scouts' discriminatory policies. As an 18-year-old Eagle Scout, Curran was refused a position of assistant scoutmaster because he was openly gay. He sued in 1981 but lost the case in 1998, when the California Supreme Court decided that the Boy Scouts could discriminate.

By then, another challenge was on the way. James Dale, a teenage Eagle Scout and assistant scoutmaster who was expelled for his sexual orientation, sued. In 1999, the New Jersey Supreme Court found in his favor. That's when the Scouts appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and won.

Both Curran and Dale were media sensations. But the attention was often negative. Curran was paraded around talk shows where he was often assumed to be a pedophile.

One of Dale's lower court judges referred to him as a "sodomite" in the courtroom. And both men were kicked out of the Scouts after being identified as gay in newspaper articles related to their community service and outreach work.

Since those trying times both men have moved on, as has Shepard, who went on to work for NPR for a while, and made more films. His more recent works include *Whiz Kids*, about science prodigies competing for the prestigious Science Talent Search; *Knocking*, about the fight for civil rights for Jehovah's Witnesses; and *The Grove*, which tells the story of the transformation of the National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco.

But Shepard says there was something special about *Scout's Honor* (available at newdaydigital.com) that's stuck with him.

"Interestingly," Shepard says, "*Scout's Honor* was easier than all of them, maybe because I didn't know what I was getting into."

— stanley@csindy.com

Locally livid

Last week, the Boy Scouts of America decided it indeed will reconsider its policy banning gay and lesbian members and volunteers. But it will put off the decision until May.

The delay came as debate heated up, even locally. In Colorado Springs, Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, posted an article detailing why the Boy Scouts should continue to discriminate, saying he worried that gay scout leaders would be more likely to molest children.

"I realize that most homosexual males are not pedophiles but can we not face facts and ask why we would deliberately put a youngster in a heightened position of risk?" Daly wrote.

"Is it worth it? Of course not."

Studies have repeatedly shown that there is no correlation between pedophilia and homosexuality.

And Charlie Irwin, executive director of Colorado Springs Pride, retorted that the Boy Scouts' policies have marginalized scouts and parents who happened to be LGBT.

"Focus on the Family is yet again creating and using fear to spread hate while trying to counteract the voice of the 1.4 million people whose signatures were hand-delivered to BSA," he wrote in a release.

— J. Adrian Stanley

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Woodland Park on Waldo

Woodland Park's after-action study, released last week, reports an overall effective response to the Waldo Canyon Fire, which triggered a partial evacuation in June as the fire burned 18,247 acres.

Cooperation with Teller County, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District and other agencies went well, as did evacuation of Woodland Park's east side, and use of technology for communications, including smartphones, reverse 911, electronic variable message signs and social media.

But mapping for pre-evacuation and evacuation could have gone better, and more resources should be assigned at City Hall to handle phone calls, the report says.

Some recommended changes, such as allowing dispatchers to update electronic message signs, have been implemented. Others need more time, such as encouraging property owners to mitigate for fire danger. Another recommendation calls for a volunteer coordinator to be used early in such an emergency.

See the report at csindy.com or city-woodlandpark.org/home. A public meeting is set for 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, at Woodland Park City Hall, 220 W. South Ave. — ***PZ***

Council pay idea likely iced

Backers of a ballot measure that would increase City Council pay from $6,250 per year to $48,000 per year were expected to ask Council to table the measure Tuesday afternoon, after the *Indy*'s press deadline.

Tony Gioia, who led a group of young professionals in proposing the measure after Mayor Steve Bach encouraged them to become more involved in city government, says the group had to consider Bach's and several Councilors' opposition.

"We are asking Council to table this," Gioia says. "They have no requirement to do so." Gioia's group wants to see a similar ballot question proposed between now and 2014 so it could become effective in 2015. A majority of Council voted last month on first reading to place the measure on the April 2 ballot.

Bach has said he wants such changes to be dealt with in a broader rewrite of the city charter. — ***PZ***

ALEC's bill goes nowhere

Colorado Springs Republicans failed to bring "academic freedom" to Colorado classrooms this week, when a bill co-sponsored by Sen. Owen Hill and Reps. Janak Joshi and Dan Nordberg was shot down in a House committee.

The bill would have directed "teachers to create an environment that encourages students to intelligently and respectfully explore scientific questions and learn about scientific evidence related to biological and chemical evolution, global warming, and human cloning."

As desmogblog.com notes, this is similar to legislation drafted back in 2000 by ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, a national conservative think tank known for the preparation and dissemination of corporate-friendly bills. It is also similar to legislation recently proposed in Oklahoma and Arizona. — ***CH***

Bach: Panhandling ban dead

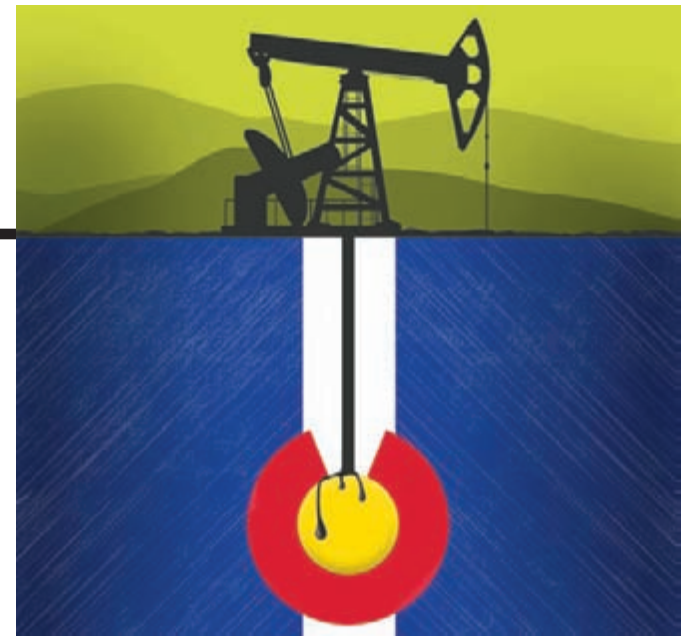
In an interview with FOX 21 News, Mayor Steve Bach confirmed that Colorado Springs City Council will not further pursue a downtown panhandling ban.

The original ban was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, and Federal District Court Judge Marcia Krieger granted an injunction, preventing the ban from going into effect pending the case's outcome. In her decision, the judge said the law wasn't likely to survive a trial.

"Our City Council has decided not to fight that and directed me and our police chief to increase law enforcement downtown," the mayor said to the TV station. "The challenge with that is we don't have enough police officers."

Bach said he was hopeful that surveillance cameras that have been installed downtown will curb crime. The city also still has an aggressive panhandling ban. — ***JAS***

Compiled by Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck. For more briefs, go to csindy.com.



Drilling in a drought

So far, the impact of fracking on the local water supply is theoretical. Only two wells have been permitted inside city limits, and according to spokesman Steve Berry, Colorado Springs Utilities has not been contacted by a drilling company to purchase water.

But the *fear* that fracking will affect the local water supply is already very real, at least in political terms.

At the Jan. 15 meeting of Colorado Springs City Council, President Scott Hente noted that "it's a perception issue ... We'll have brown grass, brown yards all over the place, but we'll be pumping oil and gas like crazy. That's the perception we're fighting here."

That fight is going to continue. The U.S. Drought Monitor, a joint venture of federal agencies and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, anticipates that Colorado Springs will see drought conditions continuing through the first months of this year. Utilities has requested that Council pass a twice-per-week maximum for lawn watering as well as adopt a water shortage tariff, in order to "restrict water use as deemed appropriate."

The tariff, which will be the subject of a March 26 public hearing, would double water rates for those who use more than 2,000 cubic feet, or 14,960 gallons, a month. A typical residential customer will use 1,100 CF in an average month, according to Utilities; in July, the peak of lawn-watering season, the average use is 1,800 to 1,900 CF.

Meanwhile, Council is moving closer to installing its second lightning rod, so to speak: regulations on oil and gas drilling, which it aims to enact by the end of March. Relying on industry numbers, Utilities estimates that a well uses anywhere between 3 million to 5 million gallons of water per frack.

"This type of use would have a very small impact on our overall water supply — approximately 0.1 to 0.3% of Colorado Springs' average annual water supply," Berry writes in an e-mail.

According to its Jan. 15 presentation, Utilities gets to that figure by projecting onetime water usage of 12 to 24 wells. Assuming that 12 wells will use the low-end estimate of 3 million gallons per frack, this is equivalent to the annual usage of 335 homes, or .1 percent of overall usage.

However, some estimates have put the water usage as high as 9 million gallons per frack, and a single well can be fracked up to 10 times in its life.

As for what oil and gas companies would be charged, "We would develop a tariff if requested by City Council, and providing we were asked by an oil and gas company to provide water (we have not been asked)," Berry writes. "The tariff process would require public discussion as part of City Council deliberation on the matter."

— ***Chet Hardin***

News

Mature themes

Council hopefuls must appeal to a certain demographic

By Pam Zubeck

Here's a tip for those running for Colorado Springs City Council in the April 2 election: Go for the geezer vote. After all, more than half of those expected to cast ballots are 60 or older.

That estimate comes from Luce Research of Colorado Springs, which bases its forecast on turnouts in three previous elections: the April 2011 city election, the May 2011 mayoral runoff election and the November 2012 presidential election.

"As you get older, you're more likely to vote," says pollster Todd Luce. "It's a very, very strong relationship. As you get older, you tend to be more engaged in the community. You become more aware of how the election affects you personally."

According to Luce's research, 51 percent of the vote this April will come from those 60-plus. Add in residents in their 50s, and that number grows to 74 percent.

In making these predictions, Luce and company considered:

• The April 5, 2011 city election, in which voters chose seven Councilors and voted for mayor, drew 86,735 voters. Of those, 66,296 were 50-plus, comprising 76 percent of the total. Although the 18-to-29 age bracket at the time comprised the biggest number of eligible voters — 57,159 — only 3,411 (3.9 percent) cast a ballot in the election. Thirty- to 39-year-olds came in second-lowest, at 6.8 percent.

• The May 17, 2011, mayoral runoff drew 95,288 voters, of whom 71,049 were 50 and older, or 74.5 percent. Again, 18- to 29-year-olds were the biggest bunch of registered voters, but only 4.4 percent of the total votes cast.

• The Nov. 6, 2012, presidential election drew 199,368 votes from city residents, of whom 104,570 were 50 and older, or 52 percent. While higher than the previous two elections, 18- to 29-year-olds accounted for only 15.3 percent of the ballots cast. And Luce says he thinks this April's election will be more reflective of the previous two city elections than this one.

The lack of young voters could bode ill for someone like Brandy Williams, who at 34 is the youngest member on Council and the second-youngest of the 24 candidates seeking six district seats in the April election. (Gary Flakes, 32, is running as a long-shot in southeast District 4.) She was fourth-highest vote-getter in the race for five at-large slots on Council two years ago. This year, she's running in District 3, which covers downtown and the southwest sector, where she'll face four men, all of whom are over 50: Keith King, Jim Bensberg, Bob Kinsey and Tom Gallagher.

Via e-mail, Williams indicates that she has no plans to cater to an older demographic. "I was elected to represent the entire Colorado Springs community, which includes people of all ages," she says.

FedEx pilot Joel Miller, 42, who's giving incumbent Angela Dougan and retired military member Bill Murray competition in the northern District 2, says he's not targeting any particular age groups. And Jill Gaebler, 46, a director at Greccio Housing who's running against three men older than her in mid-central District 5 — Bernie Herpin, Roger McCarville and Al Loma — says via e-mail that age has nothing to do with her campaign strategy.

"I believe all voters want elected officials who have energy, integrity, and innovative ideas," she says, "and our message is consistent to all age groups."

But Luce says money spent in trying to reach young voters might be wasted. And Eric Sondermann, with a political consultant firm in Denver, takes it a step further, saying spending on reaching young people "is more often than not going to be for naught."

— zubeck@csindy.com

Age spots

Turnout in the 2011 Council election

Age	% of population	% of voting population
18-29	20.5%	3.9%
30-39	17.8%	6.8%
40-49	16.7%	12.8%
50-59	19.4%	24.9%
60-69	13.9%	26.0%
70+	11.6%	25.5%

Source: City of Colorado Springs

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— Maynard James Keenan
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— Roger Waters
the rock station

DO YOU KNOW TAOS?

Some people say there are no more secrets left in skiing and snowboarding. They say there's nothing left to be discovered, that all the stashes are gone, the mysteries revealed. They say that powder days have been reduced to a mere hour, and the only way to chase first tracks is fight the crowds.

Well, they don't know Taos. Do you?

Actually, it's just love

As civil unions move forward in Colorado, same-sex couples keep on keepin' on

By Kirsten Akens

As the Supreme Court considers same-sex marriage cases this session, the Pentagon extends some benefits for same-sex domestic partners and reviews the Defense of Marriage Act, and the Boy Scouts of America contemplate opening their doors to gay Scouts and troop leaders, the Colorado Legislature has pushed for a civil unions bill. It passed the Senate Monday. If it passes the House, and Gov. John Hickenlooper signs off as promised, Colorado will be the ninth state to have this type of law.

Yes, the times they are a-changin'. Even the language is changing. President Obama, during his January inaugural speech, connected the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village, where the gay rights movement could be said to have begun in 1969, to Selma, Ala. (an organizing community of the racial-equality movement) and Seneca Falls, N.Y. (the location of one of the first national women's rights conventions).

As always, resistance to change is loud, often with the loudest voice getting the microphone. But according to a November 2012 study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Americans on the whole have crossed over on gay marriage. In 2001, they opposed it 57 to 35 percent. Now, the margin is 48 percent in favor and 43 against.

In honor of Valentine's Day, against this backdrop of progress, we spoke with four local same-sex couples. Some of them support civil unions. Some believe we should be asking for more. Either way, the bottom line for each? Spending their days just living their lives, loving one another.

Step into their shoes for a bit, won't you?

Brienne Boortz

Jeff and Eric

When Eric Gustafson told his grandmother he was gay, she said only this: "As long as you marry a good Catholic boy."

"And I *am* a good Catholic boy," says fiancé Jeff Mueller emphatically.

A Notre Dame grad with an engineering degree, the 33-year-old is also a major in the U.S. Air Force, assigned to the Missile Defense Agency at Schriever Air Force Base.

The two met in August 2005 when Jeff, a Colorado native, was stationed in Great Falls, Mont. Eric, who's from Montana, was in college about 2½ hours away. The two chatted on and off on gay.com, but it wasn't until Eric's best friend, who also happened to be one of Jeff's civil air patrol cadets and a gay.com member herself, discovered the online connection and started pushing the two to meet, that they did.

> 'You light a candle. Say a prayer. Things happen.'

A shopping trip to Great Falls brought Eric and his friend within miles of Jeff, who happened to be at Home Depot, buying materials for a basement remodel.

"I helped him pick out some colors," Eric says. "It was kinda fun. He points out that I was a little bitchy."

'Put a Ring on It'

The relationship they started would be challenged by miles — and pressure from Jeff's career.

"The number one rule of gay dating is, don't date someone in the closet," Jeff explains, adding, "If someone's more open and more willing to talk about it, and someone else isn't, that can cause a lot of strain. Now for us it was a little bit different because it's not that I didn't want to be, it's that I couldn't be."

When the two did go out for dinner or a movie in Great Falls, Jeff says he was "mildly terrified." In a city of 60,000 in which at least 2,000 are military, "[If] I'm at a restaurant with another guy, people are gonna start asking questions."

But Jeff said, as their commitment grew, he cared less.

"I was still careful, but it got to the point where it was like, this is stupid. Yes, I don't want to lose my job, but I want to have a life. ... I heard stories afterward from friends where pretty much everybody knew and nobody cared. My squadron commander knew, and he would have been the one who would have started administrative proceedings to separate me, and he didn't."

When Jeff got transferred to Colorado Springs in December 2006, Eric was still finishing undergraduate work in physics and religious studies. By June 2008, Eric had earned his degree and moved here to live with Jeff. A big step, with a bigger one to come.

In October 2008, Eric took Jeff to Notre Dame for a football game weekend. The night they arrived, the two visited the Grotto, a spot that Jeff describes as "a secular sacred space ... it's a very special place for a Notre Dame grad. You light a candle. Say a prayer. Things happen." Here Eric surprised Jeff with, "Will you marry me?" and, appropriately for the guy who says he "bleeds blue and gold," a titanium ring, with a gold inlay and a blue sapphire.

Jeff's response: Yes, but we have to wait.

"You know, marriage is a very big step, period. But the fact that [a relationship] becomes much more public, I was still nervous to do it while Don't Ask Don't Tell was still in place."

It would be three years before repeal talk got serious. In the meantime, Beyoncé's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" hit airwaves, and Jeff says Eric starting joking with him about not having a ring on *his* finger.

Jeff, due to his volunteer work with OutServe, a then-clandestine association of actively serving LGBT military personnel, got some insider information on when DADT was likely to be repealed — and started planning his own surprise.

The evening of the repeal, Sept. 20, 2011, the two celebrated with dinner at the Blue Star, and Eric did get a ring added to *his* finger — not blue and gold, but a silver band with a black meteorite stone inlay for the man who loves space, and a touch of the unique.

DOMA demands

To the right of the front door of their north-end Colorado Springs home, a hand-painted sign proclaims "The Muellers."

It was Jeff's father's sign. And while the two don't plan to share a last name even when they do someday get married, they will take the sign with them when the military reassigns Jeff this summer — where to exactly, the two aren't sure yet.

Eric, now 27, will leave his information specialist job with the Pikes Peak Library District. The two will need to figure out whether to sell their home, find a place to live in their new location, et cetera — "the same exact things that every other military couple has to deal with," Jeff emphasizes.

Yet because they're two men with the Defense of Marriage Act — the 1996 federal law defining marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman — hovering overhead, they're also dealing with a lot of issues straight, married couples in the military don't even have to consider.

For instance, military benefits include housing expenses. The couple could choose to live in privatized base housing, but where a straight, married couple would be completely funded by the military, Eric is considered a dependent, not a spouse, for whom Jeff must pay extra.

If they go the other route and opt for off-base housing, Jeff's allowance doesn't include Eric.

Add to that, moving expenses. If Jeff exceeds his military-approved weight limit, he has to pay for every pound he goes over — even though he's moving two people, and two people's stuff. ("We have a book problem, which we're gonna try to fix," Jeff says, laughing.)

And until Eric can find a job, he will be without medical and dental benefits.

Thanks to Monday's announcement by the Department of Defense, some benefits Eric's gone without will be available to him later this year, including a dependent ID card, which will finally allow him to be on base without Jeff to access commissaries, base exchanges and family programs.

"At the end of the day, I'm fine," Jeff says. "We're not gonna be living on the street. But there's an inequality there."

Should the couple not be relocated before civil unions are legal in Colorado, they do plan to go forward with the paperwork, just in case it allows them future benefits under a DOMA change.

"The funny thing is, co-workers, people at church, everybody kind of agrees," Jeff says. "I really haven't found a lot of people that don't support [DOMA] going away." ■

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2012	Nissan	Versa SV	CL857802	22,003	$13,587	$12,587	$203
2011	Chevrolet	Impala LT	B1320919	51,214	$13,748	$12,748	$206
2012	Nissan	Versa S	CK226820	17,216	$13,756	$12,756	$206
2011	Nissan	Sentra S	BL710761	37,056	$13,925	$12,925	$209
2011	Toyota	Camry LE	BU725414	42,276	$13,997	$12,997	$210
2011	Mazda	6i	B5M18760	49,384	$14,195	$13,195	$213
2012	Fiat	500	CT126379	19,650	$14,315	$13,315	$215
2011	Toyota	Corolla LE	BC612189	37,384	$14,575	$13,575	$219
2011	Toyota	Camry LE	BU739204	46,514	$14,865	$13,865	$224
2011	Nissan	Altima S	BN477421	38,220	$14,990	$13,990	$226
2011	Chevrolet	Impala LT	B1323163	43,011	$14,995	$13,995	$226
2011	Nissan	Altima S	BN455486	48,104	$15,175	$14,175	$229
2012	Mazda	5 Sport	C0103386	38,160	$15,912	$14,912	$241
2012	Nissan	Altima S	CC163437	33,735	$16,447	$15,447	$249
2012	Chevrolet	Malibu LT	CF103748	37,676	$17,155	$16,155	$261
2011	Jeep	Liberty Sport	BW572171	27,024	$17,202	$16,202	$261
2011	Nissan	Rogue S	BW682071	25,871	$17,730	$16,730	$270
2012	Chevrolet	Captiva LS	CS545027	30,543	$18,595	$17,595	$284
2012	Nissan	Xterra S	CC508650	21,004	$20,443	$19,443	$314
2012	Ford	Escape XLT	CKB43455	23,374	$21,025	$20,025	$323
2012	Ford	Escape XLT	CKB18523	21,745	$21,397	$20,397	$329
2012	Toyota	Sienna LE	CS014625	18,957	$23,017	$22,017	$355
2012	Chevrolet	Equinox LTZ	C6104807	43,548	$23,997	$22,997	$371
2011	Ford	Expedition XLT	BEF53940	35,152	$28,854	$27,854	$449
2012	GMC	Yukon SLT	CR122222	29,109	$33,126	$32,126	$518

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Brienne Boortz

Dara and Lauren

Dara Hoffman-Fox and Lauren Fox are tucked into a couch at Dara's office. They hold hands, wrap and unwrap legs. Eyes sparkling, Dara begins the interview by saying that Lauren realized that morning that the couple started e-mailing exactly six years ago the day prior. Now the 38-year-olds live on a 3-acre farm in Cañon City with their two 11-year-old daughters from previous marriages, six dogs, one cat, three donkeys and a bird.

Both work in the Springs: Dara is a licensed professional counselor in private practice, and Lauren, executive director of All Breed Rescue & Training.

Lauren: So do you want to tell the beginning, or do you want me? This is like *When Harry Met Sally.*

Dara: Awww.

'You never know, on a daily basis, when we have to come out.'

Lauren: So let's see, in, fall of 2006, I had just, I had been dealing with a pretty yucky breakup. And Dara had as well, a little bit earlier on, though, right?

Dara: Mmm hmm.

Lauren: And so I was perusing online lesbian personals ... lesbian-personals-online-dot-com. ... You have to make sure you put lesbian-personals-online, because if you just put lesbian-personals-dot-com, it is a *very* different site. ...

So anyway, October of 2006, I still wasn't out of this relationship. I knew the relationship was ending. And I saw Dara's profile on there, and I "winked" at her 'cause that's about as cheap as you can be. Like, you can wink, but you don't have to pay anything if you just wink. So I winked at her.

Dara: And I winked back. 'Cause you could still see the profile, so I thought she was very attractive and it turns out the picture she had —

Lauren: — was in the *Independent.*

Dara: — was in the *Independent.* It was a picture of her with her pit bull and it was a picture that I had seen and remembered —

Lauren: — for sure, the year before. It was one of my favorite pictures of me.

Dara: So that was on her profile and then in her profile she said, you know, that she worked for a nonprofit, and I at the time was working at the Pride Center, so I was like, I work for a nonprofit. And she had a daughter — I think you might have said how old she was because my daughter was the same age — like, there was a couple of things there that definitely sounded like we had some things in common.

Lauren: And that was the same thing for me. I was like, "Oh she works for a nonprofit, she has a kid. So that's cool."

Dara: And cute.

Lauren: And cute. [Laughs.] Super adorably cute.

Both women ended relationships in January 2007, and as Lauren says, she finally spent the 20 bucks to get a membership to the website. They e-mailed and indeed found a lot of similarities — though, Dara says, "One big thing not in common was I never ever, ever had owned a dog in my life and Lauren ran a dog rescue."

Dara: So we did end up meeting up — the Pride Center has a group called the Women's Social Network. ... We had a mutual friend who ... did play a hand sort of in letting Lauren know she knew who I was. ...

Lauren: She sent me some other pictures that she found online of Dara.

Dara: That was funny. ... I actually had another date with another girl that day, 'cause you know, I was datin'. And so we met, and two days later was the Super Bowl, so that's another sort of way we remember how things went down.

Lauren: And I had a date the day before with Jennifer. That Thursday night.

Dara: So let's just say then on the Super Bowl —

Lauren: No, it was the Friday. It was the Friday before Super Bowl.

Dara: No, I know, that's when we went on our date. ...

Lauren: We went to Chili's —

Dara: — on North Academy —

Lauren: — and then we went to —

Dara: — the Indian restaurant. So anyway, there were a lot of people around, and Ruth was there and they were talking about dogs a lot. But I knew enough that I wanted to see her again.

Three and half years later, on Oct. 10, 2010, they held a ceremony with friends and family. The two explain how, before the wedding, they made sure they were "as legally binded together" as they could possibly be in Colorado. "It was a lot of paperwork. It was a lot of time. And it was a lot of money," Lauren says. "Where straight people, just for everything we did and the money and expenses, all they have to do is get a marriage license. And we still don't have as much coverage as they do."

Day-to-day challenges continue.

Lauren: For Christmas this year, [my parents] got us a Sleep Number mattress and so we ordered it online. My mother said, "Oh you need to go to the store, check out the settings. And they'll [help you]. And so we're like, OK, we're gonna go to the store ... and as we walked into the store, as you look around and there are these huge pictures of all these straight couples on the wall —

Dara: — and mostly white, too —

Lauren: — and at *that* moment I realized. There's this middle-aged white man there, like, "How can I help you?" So ... I'm explaining that my parents got us this bed.

Dara: I didn't actually think about it until we laid on the bed, and I was like, oh, awkward!

Lauren: Awkward! Because I was like, we both have to, Test The Bed. So now, it's coming out. Now we're coming out. You never know, on a daily basis, when we have to come out, over and over and over again. So then he turns to me and says, "Oh is this for you and your husband?" Dara is standing next to me and I've been referring to 'us' —

Dara: — laying —

Lauren: — she's laying on the bed next to me and he says, "Is this for you and your husband?" And I said, "No. We're together. It's *our* bed." ... And he was clearly embarrassed, but not embarrassed because we were together, but embarrassed because he immediately assumed that we weren't.

He was awesome. He got it. Clicked in his brain. Moved on and helped us and it was a good experience. But there was like, I didn't think how buying mattresses would require us to come out. It was just bizarre.

Dara: As we say this, I think about how far things have come. ... To say we don't have a fear, there's not fear of physical harm, or even feeling like our feelings are going to get hurt. I mean there's always the chance that might happen, but for the most part it's really just — to be able to use words like, "It's so awkward," or, "It's uncomfortable." I still feel happy to know that's all it is. And every time we do it and every time we go through it, it brings us together more, 'cause we're like, "Oh, how did we handle that? How can we handle it better next time?" ... It's getting easier, probably because, on the outside, society is gettin' with the program.

Lauren: We have way more than the generation before us.

The two plan to file a civil union. After their wedding, Dara tried to legally change her last name to Lauren's but ran into roadblocks, and is excited that this is included in the law, so her public commitment can be more than "Facebook official." Someday, they'd like to share a name on bank checks.

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The Synder Family - October 2012.
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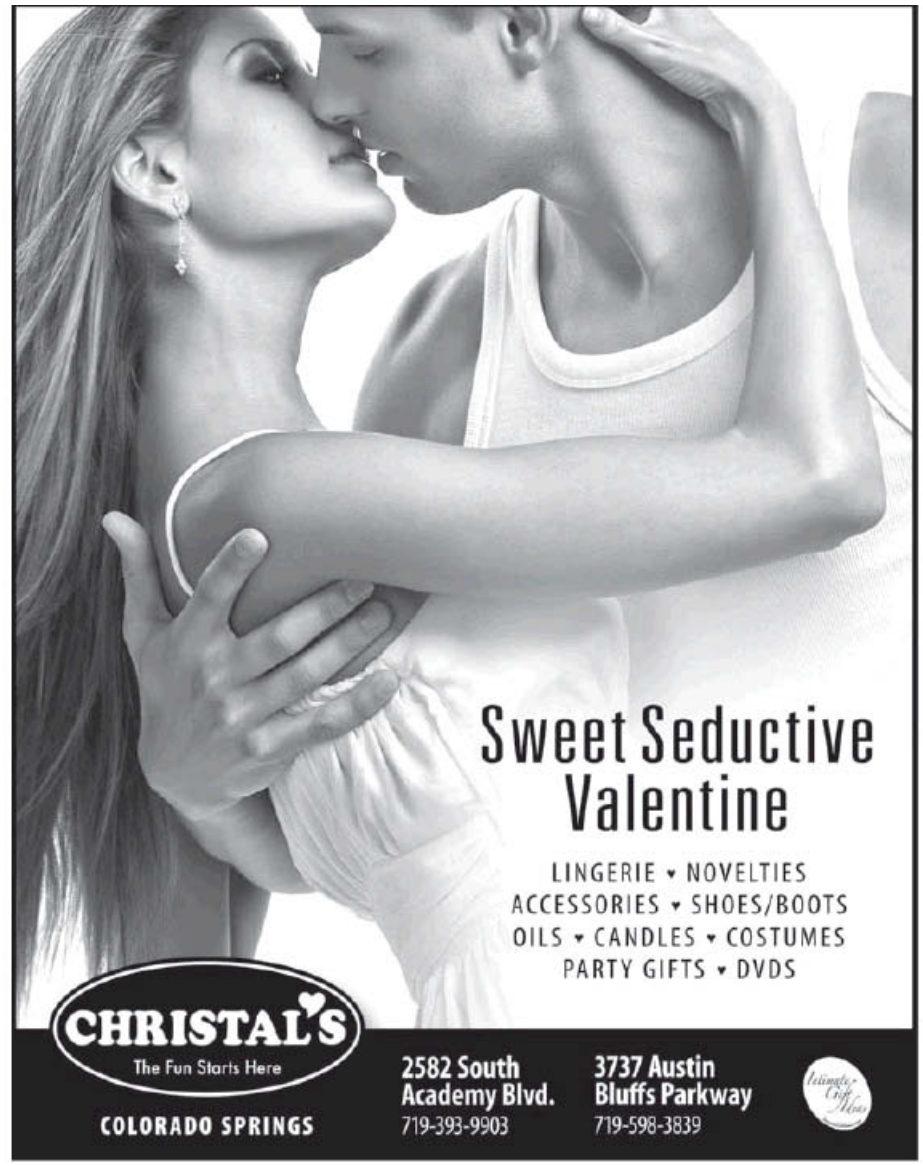

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Brienne Boortz

Kathy and Geri

The story of Geri Johnson and Kathy Edwards begins like that of many couples — at the office. Geri, 38, says they "originally sat, like, three cubes apart," at the Indianapolis offices of Sallie Mae, the U.S. student loan company, where they are both still employed in the tech side of the business.

They started working on projects together and Kathy, 44, says, "we were so compatible, you know, with the way we looked at things, and looked at problems and life."

But Geri had other things in mind. She had been married to a man and divorced. "I married my best friend," she says, thinking back with tears in her eyes. "I loved him ...[but] one morning I woke up and was like, 'I can't do this the rest of my life. Something is missing. I am content, but I'm not happy.' ... At the time it wasn't about straight or gay."

As a result, she was comfortable being single. And she'd been dreaming of moving to a place she'd visited and fallen in love with: Colorado. With her boss' approval to telecommute, she headed to Fort Collins. She liked it there, but the Indiana-born-and-bred woman — whose family was still across the country, along with her burgeoning relationship with Kathy — was finding herself in the veritable "absence makes the heart grow fonder" situation.

> 'My heart was calling me back.'

"My heart was calling me back," she says.

Being who you are

When Geri returned to the Midwest, the two prioritized making their relationship work.

"When we decided to live together, we proactively sought a therapist and said, 'Hey, we want to live together and we want to stay together for the foreseeable future.' ... We used to see her every six weeks, learning to communicate. And that has paid — "

"— dividends," Kathy says, laughing. "Beyond dividends."

Of course it seems healthy communication has been key for both of them their whole lives.

"My father, when I came out to him, he was like, 'Thank god you know this about yourself,'" Kathy says. "He just wanted me to be happy. I've really never encountered resistance about being a lesbian. Maybe it's the friends I keep, maybe it's my family, maybe it's the places I don't go. I don't know. I've never needed to be closeted."

Geri's story is different, but she says her parents, who have supported her all along the way, would say she's always been individualistic.

"I love myself. I see myself as so unique and so I've always embraced whatever there is about me. ... I'm just gonna be me no matter what, which is a great outlook on life, I think personally. ... And thankfully I haven't met any resistance, but that was just how it was gonna be regardless."

They say they haven't had challenges at work either, though Sallie Mae is a large corporation they consider conservative.

"We've never been closeted about our relationship," says Kathy, who's in her 10th year of employment. Geri, in her 20th year, adds: "I had no qualms about us when we had to tell our management we needed to work on different teams [because we were dating] ... I mean we didn't fear our employment, I don't even know if we talked about it, I guess is my point. Where other people, they do, I mean it's a real thing. So it does sound like, 'Yay, everything is just roses ... and we don't have any challenges,' but it's literally true."

Colorado, for good

Flash forward to 2012, and as Geri says, it's kind of like déjà vu. The two visited friends in Colorado Springs last summer and were so taken with the Kissing Camels neighborhood that on the way to the airport they called a real estate agent and set an appointment for that Monday to put their Indianapolis house up for sale.

They once again asked their bosses if they could telecommute, and on approval, packed up and drove cross-country in two U-Hauls with their dogs, Sadie and Josie.

The couple, who have now been together for 10 years, admit to having heard stories about Colorado Springs' conservative environment, but as Kathy says, "We have experienced nothing but welcome arms."

"Because I play golf," Geri says, "we immediately joined the Garden of the Gods Club, and we love it there — not that we're trying to put in a plug for the Garden of the Gods Club, but —"

"— it is an older, conservative club," Kathy interjects. "But we've had nothing but friendliness and welcome. ... Three months in the house and happy as clams."

So now that they're in Colorado, will they file for a civil union?

"What we care about are matters of the heart," Geri says. "So when I think about our rights, it's what I care most about between the two of us, that is, us supporting each other in sickness and in health. And whatever rights we need to do that, outside of this house, is what we would be most interested in."

"If that's a civil union that gives us those basic rights, you know, that we want in this relationship," Kathy adds, "then that's good." ■

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Stuart and Rick

Rick Newcomb and Stuart Blom's relationship from the get-go was, as Stuart says, "A little scandalous. A little *Springer*." The gist: Stuart was engaged to Rick's cousin Melissa. The two guys had been close friends for five years by then.

"And Rick," says Stuart, "was going to be the best man."

"It turns out I still am," Rick adds, laughing.

After Stuart broke up with Melissa, he and Rick dated, then lived together as roommates, but didn't tell anyone for a year.

"Honestly, my family was just so devastated when they broke up because everybody loves Stuart so much," Rick says, "and so I was so scared to tell people. But they were just so ecstatic and so happy that Stuart was back a part of our team."

Almost 14 years have passed since then. Rick, 30, and Stuart, 35, agree that's a long time and yet, speaking together, say "It feels like no time at all."

"I want to see his 100th birthday," Stuart says. "Not that I want us to be old, 'cause we'll be there when we get there, no rushing. ... I just want to see him on his 100th birthday. I mean, that would be the best gift."

"I'm gonna be a dapper centenarian, too," Rick teases.

Truth is, there's nothing *Springer* about them.

I wanna hold your hand

At SalonSeven, the Tejon Street salon they've owned for the past five years, Rick does hair. Stuart manages, keeping the books, answering phone calls, and getting clients drinks. They credit their success to one simple thing.

"We are ourselves here," Stuart says. "We don't hold back — I mean we're not running around kissing and hugging and, you know, being gross. Well, not gross, but like, in people's face about it — but we are certainly ourselves here. And people I think like that."

Being themselves hasn't always been easy. Rick recalls when Stuart was a University of Iowa student. It was Valentine's Day and all the straight couples around them were walking down the street holding hands.

> 'I want to see his 100th birthday.'

"I wanted to hold Stuart's hand and he was so nervous, like 'What if people are mean to us, or what if' ... And instead I finally convinced him to hold my hand, and people were applauding or people were saying, 'Good for you guys,' so it was a completely opposite scenario of what Stuart was scared of. I think that was a turning point for us. And we'd been together for three or four years at that point."

Of course that doesn't mean they haven't had other battles to fight. When they bought their first house in Colorado Springs, they realized the paperwork did not allow for the property to be transferred automatically to the other in case of death.

"We literally stood up to leave the closing, 'cause we weren't gonna sign it that way," Stuart says.

Rick adds: "And they looked at us incredulously, like, 'Really?'"

Stuart nods. "Like we were doing something wrong. It's like, 'No, if I die, he gets my part of the house.' ... It shouldn't be rocket science."

Kudos to Iowa

Rick and Stuart have no interest in getting a civil union — they're waiting for full marriage equality.

"You know, we're from Iowa. We can get married in *Iowa*. Shouldn't other states be embarrassed?" Stuart asks. "Didn't we already do this with women's rights, and didn't we already do this with black folks? I mean, do we just have to keep replaying history?

"Twenty, 30, 50 years from now, it'll be another group of people that don't get to have their rights. The Constitution is very clear about who gets rights. *Everyone*. So why do we still pick and choose who gets them?"

"We should definitely be beyond the times where we are easing into this conversation, and the idea that we are moving full speed ahead with civil unions seems absolutely counter-productive if you ask me," Rick says. "We know what we want. Why are we not asking for that? ... Let's talk about the real issue. I mean for goodness sakes, it's legal to smoke pot in Colorado, but 'Don't let the gay people get married.'"

Of course, wherever the legislation ends up isn't really the bottom line for this couple.

"We've gotten so good the last couple of years of just doing whatever we want and knowing that if we're happy, then we'll make other people happy," Stuart says.

Rick breaks into soft song.

"All you need is love." ■

SEVEN DAYS TO LIVE

Bradley Flora

Clay Cups
Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m.
Visit on.fb.me/Yftg7C on Thursday for the secret locale.

Cup runneth over

A one-day pop-up show offers audiences art and an experience to take home. Just be ready for the details, via Facebook

Hilary McBeard's Valentine's Day installation — more than 150 ceramic cups spread about a late-revealed location — figures to be unique, and not just because guerilla art galleries are rare in Colorado Springs.

Once they find out via Facebook where it's happening, locals will be welcome to interact with the space, move the cups and, in fact, take one home. McBeard doesn't see attendees as deconstructing the installation; instead, she sees them helping spread it, like an artistic virus.

Clay Cups is hopeful Dadaism and abstract expression combined with public awareness and interaction, and it's influenced by 2011's *Cakebox Show*, in which Jonas McCluggage clipped his sketches and small works to a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 25. It's also a celebration of what the 28-year-old McBeard calls "the simplest form."

"It's a basic cylinder," she says, "but it at the same time is the most functional form. Everyone loves cups. Everybody knows what it is and everybody has some use for it."

McBeard created each cup by hand, pulling from a bucket of scraps containing porcelain and red, white and gritty clay. Having already sold many ceramics in seasonal art shows around southern Colorado, she wanted to break away from clone-goods manufacturing.

So do not show up looking for a set of four perfectly matching cups. Do show up appreciating the importance of individuality, and community. Bradley Flora, an *Indy* photographer who helped with the concept of the show, explains that "People will be encouraged to ... take one of the cups, for free, in an interactive manner which will be revealed along with the location."

McBeard says the locale will have something to do with love — hence the date — but won't reveal more. This isn't secrecy for secrecy's sake, she adds; it's that she doesn't want to be disturbed while assembling the initial phase of the presentation.

After all, once the art-lovers arrive, it's completely out of her hands.

"This is something we are not controlling," she says. "As soon as the first person takes a cup, depending on which cup they take or move, the whole thing is going to change."

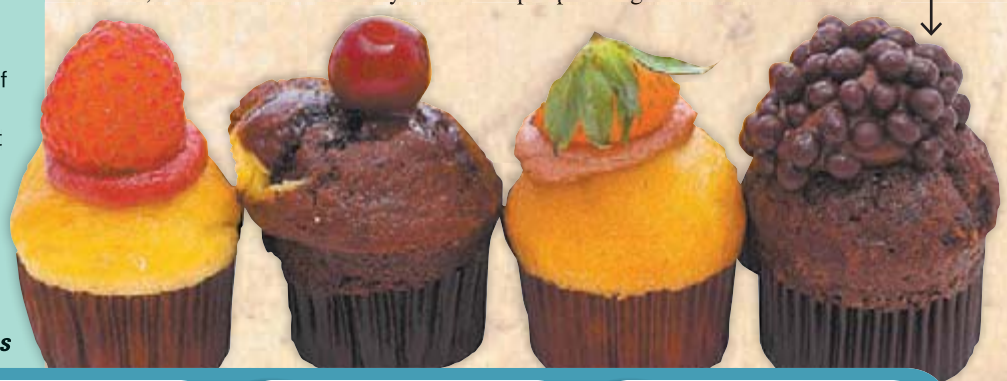
— Joshua Michael Torres

13 WEDnesday
lecture

I've always had a touch of synesthesia, in that I perceive numbers and months as entities with personalities, or dates and years with unique spatial positions. Similarly, music is a visual experience for me and that means I'd fit right in at tonight's ***statio hiberna*/winter stasis Ensemble Peak FreQuency concert** happening at 7 p.m. at **GOCA 121** (121 S. Tejon St., #100, tinyurl.com/bx7xtmm). For a $10 donation, you'll start with a pre-concert talk at 6:45, followed by a multimedia presentation from Karen Bentley Pollick, who will incorporate the works of Ofer Ben-Amots, Jeffrey Harrington and others into "Violin, Viola & Video Virtuosity." After that, local composer Glen Whitehead will premiere his piece, *Equipoise* ("breath in repose"), with even more music and art to follow. ***— EA***

14 THURSday
holiday

It being **Valentine's Day**, there's no shortage of venues offering specials expressly designed for you and your significant other. For instance, **The Blue Star** offers you the chance to "spend the evening falling in love" over monk fish with lobster sauce; the **Margarita at PineCreek** has a six-entrée menu with enough dessert to induce a sugar coma. Yet join me in laying waste to any of that pre-planning/reservation form and find



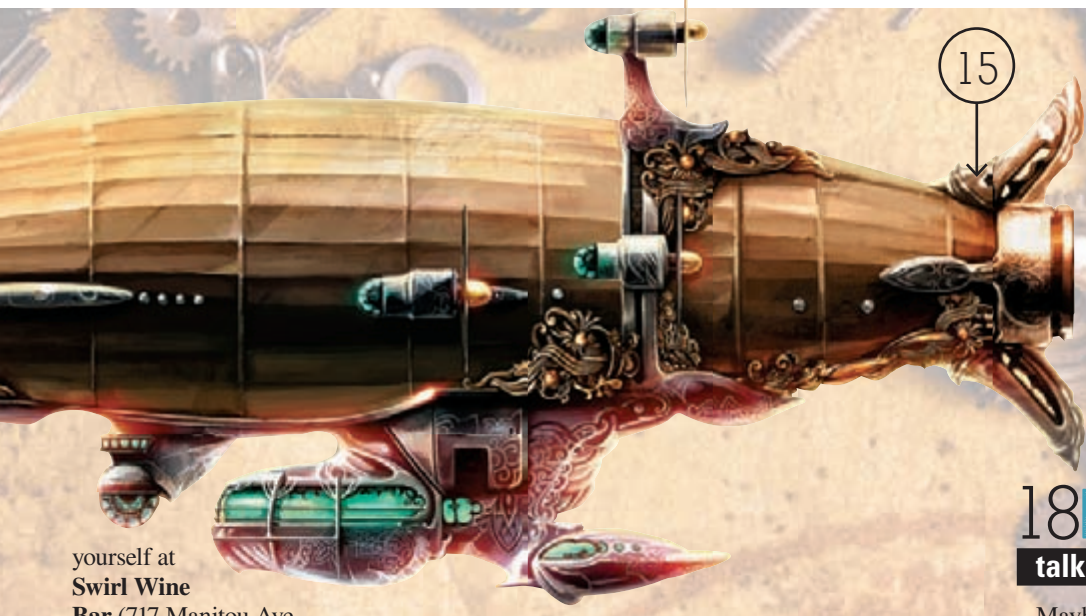
4Play — Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Viva Brazil!, 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16 at Marmalade at Smokebrush

Before you know it
Families opens Feb. 23 at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

Potato pick
Immortalized series premiere, 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14 on AMC

Have you heard?
See what minerals are found, by county, along the Front Range: tinyurl.com/bgcjqh6



yourself at **Swirl Wine Bar** (717 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, swirlismybar.com) tonight for an evening of $5 Cupid concoctions and super-special Valentine's Day cupcakes. So leave the suit and tie at home and rock that (clean) Metallica T-shirt. **— *MB***

15 FRIday
festival

It lacks lace and leather, cool gadgets and Victorian flair, but Fritz Lang's 1927 film *Metropolis* is considered to be the earliest precursor of the steampunk genre. It shares its highly stylistic appeal and retro-futuristic technology, though it hardly has that *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* feel. Nonetheless, you can watch the film (in its original German) at tinyurl.com/ayf7vdu, then get your more familiar Wells-Lovecraft-whathaveyou fill at the **Victor Steampunk Festival**, a packed weekend — starting today — of art shows, performances, a Nikola Tesla living history talk, a broomball game, gold mine tours and more. Find the whole schedule online at victorcolorado.com/events.htm. **— *EA***

16 SATurday
music

Add one part world's most dangerous man to equal parts impoverished love, criminals, fugitives and impossible escape, and you have ***Casablanca***. Then kick it up a notch by way of projection on the big screen with live musical accompaniment by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. That's the equation set up for 8 tonight with the Philharmonic's Pops performance at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., pikespeakcenter.com). Tickets run $19 to $59. **— *MG***

17 SUNday
food

Last November's **Colorado Indulgence Festival** raised $3,000 for the Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area while stylishly stuffing some 800 faces with top-of-the-line truffles, killer cupcakes, gelato, cookies, chocolate martinis, beer, wine and pretty much all things sugary and alluring. The second indulgent incarnation of sampling splendiferousness runs from 1 to 5 today at the **Antlers Hilton** (4 S. Cascade Ave., indulgencefestival.com), with a VIP option ($100, $170 per couple) earning entry an hour earlier plus a loaded gift bag and private demos. Regular tickets are $70, $120 per couple; guests must be 21 or older. **— *MS***

18 MONday
talk

Maybe you saw the ads in the *New York Times* a few months ago: "Don't Buy This Jacket," showing Patagonia's popular R2 fleece. If you did, you probably read further to discover that Patagonia itself was behind them. Find out how the much-loved, oft-emulated California company manages to combat consumerism even as it peddles product when marketing VP Vincent Stanley talks at 11:15 a.m. today at **Colorado College's Armstrong Theatre** (14 E. Cache la Poudre St., coloradocollege.edu). His free presentation, **"The Responsible Company: What We've Learned From Patagonia's First 40 Years"** is based on the book of the same name, which Stanley recently wrote with Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard. **— *KW***

19 TUESday
museum

Here's a list of real things *more* common than a **1913 Liberty Head nickel**: red diamonds, William Shakespeare's actual signature, a Honus Wagner T206 baseball card. Here's a list of fake ones, according to a snappy commenter on Yahoo! Answers: "a good man"; "an honest politician"; "a hippie that doesn't smoke dope." All good things, all apparently more common than the five-cent coin, of which only five are known to exist. The last time one was sold, it went for $3.7 million. At the **Money Museum** (818 N. Cascade Ave., money.org), one of the famous nickels will be on display Tuesdays through Saturdays through April 15, when it will leave on a national tour. Admission is $4 to $5, free for kids 12 and under. **— *BC***

***Contributors:** Edie Adelstein, Miguel Bustamante, Bryce Crawford, Matthew Grieson, Matthew Schniper and Kirk Woundy.*

Collective soul
THEATREdART and Star Bar Players bet on *Cuckoo's Nest* collaboration

According to Brian Mann, artistic director and co-founder of THEATREdART, there really isn't such a thing as mainstream theater in Colorado Springs.

Mann's joking, of course, but he does believe that most productions in town at least have some elements that are unconventional and interpretive, even those put on by "mainstream" theater companies. Which is why TdA's collaboration with the venerable Star Bar Players on Dale Wasserman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,* based on Ken Kesey's novel, is a good fit for the companies and the scene in general.

TdA's track record is, well, a tad niche, with past productions including the surrealist *Jet of Blood*, *Grand Guignol* grotesque plays, and an "immersion experiment"of *Reservoir Dogs*, which took place without a stage in Western Jubilee Recording Company.

Star Bar — celebrating its 40th season this year — tackles more classical fare with 2012's *God of Carnage*, *Othello: Moor of Venice* and *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf*. "We tend to do traditional," says Alysabeth Clements Mosley, who serves both as artistic director and Nurse Ratched in *Cuckoo's Nest*. "We like to choose good material and represent it well."

Given their respective lineups, TdA tends to attract a younger crowd than Star Bar; Star Bar tends to attract a *larger* crowd than TdA. With a single story that's both edgy and familiar — set in a psychiatric hospital, the 1975 movie version starring Jack Nicholson swept all five major Academy Awards — both crowds should get something they want. Especially since Star Bar brings to the equation some of the scene's most well-established actors.

Like Clements Mosely, Mann notes that there's already a lot of cooperation involved in the theater scene. "We've shared space and sometimes actors," Mann says, "so it has been fun to get together to see what we can tease out of both companies."

This collaboration came together via TdA's Michael Lee, who will be directing. While trying to schedule the space they sometimes share, Lee suggested the companies work on *Cuckoo's Nest* together. Clements Mosley liked the idea and called Mann.

"It's working out well," says Mann. "Everything's sort of split down the middle. Star Bar is handling the set, and the costumes are up to THEATREdART."

— *Bret Wright*

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Through Feb. 24: Thursdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Sundays, 4 p.m.

THEATREdART, 128 N. Nevada Ave.

Tickets: $15/general, $10/seniors and military, $5/students with ID. Sundays are pay-what-you-can. For more, call 357-8321 or visit theatredart.org or starbarplayers.org.

Appetite

Bun vivant

The Dive shows promising form but lacks finishing finesse

By Bryce Crawford

There are problems at The Dive, a small, revamped diner on the side of a cresting North 31st Street in the former home of Vietnamese Garden, but the black swivel chairs in front of black tables — perfect for semi-sauced pirouettes — aren't one of them. It's not the smoker out front turning hickory, cherry and apple wood into a fairly tender half-rack of baby-back ribs ($9.95). (The house sauce is a muddy-red Kansas City style; tangy, like it used to be at Giuseppe's Old Depot Restaurant.) And it's sure as hell not owner Dominick Scola, an attentive host with an eye for service details and a penchant for dad jokes, who one night offered up the last piece of chocolate cake to a boisterous dining room.

CAPSULE

The Dive

3043 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 632-4332

Daily, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

But more often than not it was a lack of vision in the kitchen that hurt our food; mainly our burgers. For it's burgers made of beef from Ranch Foods Direct that are the big deal at The Dive. Of course, you can definitely do breakfast with your bottomless, 59-cent coffee, but we didn't venture too far down the road of omelets and eggs, other than to confirm that the French toast ($4.95) was, indeed, *très délicieux*, not to mention available on sourdough, raisin or buttermilk bread. Other diner dabbling yielded watery coleslaw, tasting like NutraSweet and black pepper; amazing, smoky, brisket-laced baked beans; and a good red chili over woeful french fries ($5.99).

So, with a nod to the ground beef, we present a few commandments of the craft:

Thou shalt blaze to the beseeched degree. It is a truth universally acknowledged that you either like your beef bloody, or you're wrong. Those who are, take heart: Every burger we ordered at The Dive was overcooked, regardless of the level requested. The only one that wasn't was the char-broiled breast in the chicken club ($8.49), and it had a pinker sheen to it than others might like. (Of course, I ate it anyway — throw Swiss cheese, thick bacon and thin avocado slices at me and I'll eat them off the ground. It just lacked some zip, like mayonnaise.) And though nicely edged with charred fatty bits, a sizzling, cross-hatched strip-steak ($11.95) was also over-browned, not to mention quite the jaw workout.

Practice piety with menu variety. When it comes to creativity, by and large, the restaurant's doing it right, if not always as well as it should. There's the Dive Suicide Burger ($8.49), a horrifyingly spicy option featuring dark-orange "secret sauce" dripping off a patty made, and topped with, both sliced habanero and jalapeño peppers. The first taste to hit my tongue was onion bun, then my synapses started spazzing, sweat broke out and my head swam. This thing is ghost-chile hot, and literally inedible by us, but that's not to say you won't dig it.

The Dive Burger ($7.99) held up best, itself a mix of provolone, bacon, grilled onions, roasted red bell-peppers offering a welcome sweetness, and a garlic-herb mayo that we couldn't taste. Elsewhere, the Hawaiian Burger ($8.49), with pineapple, Swiss and a thick "hickory smoked ham" steak, seemed a great idea, but the mix of savory and sweet never found a home: The half-inch-thick ham was big, but bland, and the grilled pineapple nearly tasteless.

Lastly, there came the Big Kahuna: the Beast Burger ($14.95), three patties equaling a pound-and-a-half of beef, 10 strips of curly bacon, six pieces of cheese melting down the meat's curves, mushrooms and green chilies, all on a five-inch bun. Eating it, including fries, gets your name on the wall (not to mention an appointment with a cardiologist). Think: salty, hard-to-eat and absurdly over the top.

Fry fries long enough to get the good stuff. Considering how frequently I run across them, there's obviously a certain subset of the population that prefers their french fries soft, tangled and oil-logged; if that's you, The Dive's hand-cut potatoes are as described. They don't do much underneath red chili either, where it all becomes a little sodden.

But overall, despite shortcomings in said sampled snacks, The Dive — with its neighborhood vibe, noted effort and possibility for redemption — is still a worthwhile little addition to the west side; especially if it ever does open around the clock, as Scola mentioned as a possibility in an earlier interview with the *Indy*.

— bryce@csindy.com

Brienne Boortz

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OR 719-633-8313

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

The IRC returns

As with many a restaurant romance (waiter enamors cook, bartender woos hostess ... pick your dynamic), the **Colorado Springs Independent Restaurant Cooperative** (see revamped Facebook page) has been on-again, off-again in recent years. The passion — owner-operator independence with sustainable leanings — and people have always been there, but regular wine dinners and the like have been sparse.

Enter 2013 and a breath of new life, thanks in part to member Dave Brackett. His Pizzeria Rustica hosted an IRC dinner Jan. 30, introducing a fresh format of three tasting plates paired with either wine or beer for $39 plus tax/tip. Brackett's other business, TAPAteria, will host Wednesday, Feb. 27, followed by MoZaic in March, Margarita at PineCreek in April and McCabe's Tavern in May.

Reservations should be made with host outfits, and a full 2013 calendar should be available soon on the Facebook page.

Brews news

As reported late last week by Focus on the Beer, **Another Pint** (13860 Gleneagle Drive, anotherpint.net) has closed. Co-owner Tony Hockemeyer notes in a statement that "it turned out to be too much to bounce back from past mistakes" and that he hopes to stay in the industry, perhaps as a beer rep.

Focus was also first on the scene regarding the recent sale of **Brewer's Republic** (112 N. Nevada Ave., 633-2105) to its neighbor, the Underground. The Colorado-centric, rare-craft-beer emphasis will remain in place, but subtle changes already include the addition of a fine whisky and scotch selection. Also look for a little more love for out-of-state and international beers, plus continued "tap takeovers" by respected area breweries, such as Fort Collins' Equinox Brewing.

À la carte

• **Mandarin Bistro** (1831 Briargate Blvd., 532-0110) has expanded into an additional dining room (at 1833 Briargate Blvd.), adding a new menu under the banner **Tropix Hawaiian BBQ**. An employee clarifies that the two businesses are one, and that guests can order any of the Chinese, Thai and Hawaiian-style items (such as Spam musubi and mahi mahi) inside the space.

• **The Parked Pierogi** (292 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 210-7029) recently added a vegetarian menu to its offerings as well as a monthly five-course wine- or beer-paired dinner. Its V-Day event is sold out; March's theme will be Irish food.

• The Colorado Springs Chorale's 28th annual **Chefs' Gala & Silent Auction** is set for Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Antlers Hilton (4 S. Cascade Ave., cschorale.org). Fundraising tickets are $75, gaining you access to luxurious sampling from more than 20 area fine-dining outfits. One thing for which to watch: The Broadmoor's chefs will compete for a third consecutive Best in Show victory.

*— **Matthew Schniper***

APPETIZERS

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Open Daily 11am-2am. C'mon in & then come on back! Fountain's finest neighborhood tavern features burgers, pizza, wings, pool tables, darts & much more! Karaoke on Fridays & Saturdays. Free parking & wi-fi. Happy Hour 4-7pm daily. Go Broncos!

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If bars are hairstyles, We're the mullet! Large groups for business lunch by day, long flowing party by night! Menu ranges from fantastic nachos to juicy ribeyes! Specials day & night! 7 days a week, Open Late! Around since the 70's, our style just won't die!

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American Comfort Food served in a casual Colorado lodge atmosphere. Famous Chicken Fried Steak and real mashed potatoes, Slow Roasted Prime Rib, plus soups, salads, great Burgers, and Homemade Cobblers. Full service bar. A Family Tradition for thirty years. Serving lunch and dinner from 11am daily.

The Rabbit Hole
101 N.Tejon on Kiowa St.
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Voted Best New Restaurant 2011 by ***Indy*** Readers! We offer Colorado products and vegetarian items, 25 different wines, 25 different beers. Open 7 nights a week with a full menu from 4 pm to 1:30 am. Over 25 items.

South Side Johnny's
528 S. Tejon St.
444-8487
Daily 11am-2am. "It's better to eat at a bar, than drink at a restaurant." South downtown bar and grill serving burgers, steaks, pastas, salads, and classic home-style entrees like meat loaf & open faced carvings. Big screen TV, free parking, Happy Hour Daily 4-7.

Super Nova
111E. Boulder
719-418-3484
Now open in downtown Colorado Springs! 1980's video games. Daily lunch specials. Beer, wine and cocktails. Innovative menu. supernovabarcode.com

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2415 W. Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs
447-9888
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311 N. Tejon St.
228-6566
tonysdowntownbar.com
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(719) 475-8880
thewarehouserestaurant.com
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buffalogalsgrilling.com
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BISTRO

Bon Ton's Café
2601 W. Colo Ave.
634-1007
Bon Ton's Café is where the locals eat located in the heart of Old Colorado City! Serving a full brunch menu: including old fashioned breakfasts, southwest specialties and delicious desserts! Don't forget to enjoy a mimosa or Bloody Mary as we like to think we are your weekend brunch vacation.

Ritz Grill
15 S. Tejon St.
635-8484
Voted Best Staff, lunch, & Mixed Drinks. The friendly, art-deco atmosphere of the Ritz is a longtime favorite of the downtown crowd. Also known for live bands, D.J.s and signature martinis. Check out the Elbo Room downstairs for private parties and meetings.

Springs Orleans
123 E. Pikes Peak
520-0123
Serving Cajun Classics & Local Favorites for breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Also offering late night dining Friday and Saturdays till 1:00am. Happy Hour nightly 4pm - 6pm and 9pm – Close.

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Phantom Canyon Brewing Co.
2 E. Pikes Peak Ave.
635-2800
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CAFE & DELI

Milt's Coffee Shop/ Restaurant
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634-9016
Hours: open daily 6am - 4pm (closed Sundays). Family owned and operated since 1979. Milt's homemade soups, sandwiches and dinners. Chicken noodle soup every day. Breakfast served all day. All you can eat biscuits and gravy, Southern Colorado's best green chili. A variety of excellent chef's salads.

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442-0090
6:30-2:30 Daily *Weekday Specials *Home Style Cookin (from scratch) Pies, Soups, Chili, Biscuit & Gravy *Great Burgers, Sandwiches, Wraps, *Awesome Breakfast served all day, Best pancakes, Huevos Rancheros, Burritos, Famous "Hobo Sramble", *Calicrate Beef by "Ranch Foods" *Bacon, Sausge & Ham, by "Pig in the Sack"

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The Olive Branch has made a play for the gluten-free market with a commendably wide GF menu spanning all three meals. From its lunch portion, I grab the **Olive Branch Burger** ($8.95), subbing a nicely cooked, medium-rare buffalo patty for the beef and adding jack cheese ($.95) and avocado ($1.50) to the included grilled onions and indistinguishably GF bun from Denver-based Deby's.

All compiled, it's a fine burger, with ample flavors and ideal textures — not so much a substitution as a standout. Accompanying "country potatoes" (read: home fries) could use crispness on more surface faces, but are otherwise standard. From the juice bar, the off-menu green drink ($3.95/12 ounces) usually contains something like cucumber, carrot, spinach and cilantro; a waitress calls it the "**Jerry Forte special**" and coincidentally, I spot the Colorado Springs Utilities CEO at a booth when I pick up my to-go order. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Manitou Pancake & Steak House

26 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9225

The Manstake House, as it should have been known this whole time, is a sheltered, old-timey bit of diner. The inside's full of thick wooden beams, stained-glass dividers, and pale pinks and purples on the wallpaper, and my server was a grandmother-type more efficient and helpful than most of the wait staff I come across.

She quickly brought out a huge **rib-eye plate** ($12.95) stacked with the eponymous: a well-salted, moderately overcooked 8-ounce cut of beef seemingly suffering from a little freezer burn but edged with buttery fat; two beautiful fried eggs over medium; and two Frisbee-sized fluffy pancakes a little on the chewy side, but paired with a delicious walnut butter that instantly took me back to Christmas. The coffee sipped a little acidic, but it's hard to complain while watching thick yolk ooze over shreds of crispy hash browns. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Sandy's Restaurant

6940 Space Village Ave., 651-0596

Sandy's is the epitome of good diner food, from kick-ass crispy home fries and fluffy egg scrambles to an admirable green chile and a wholly fulfilling burger. Also to be enjoyed is signage like, "Cowboys wipe the shit off them boots before you come in here."

Owner Connie Crippen started serving at the breakfast-and-lunch joint, originally opened in 1972, when she was 13. In 2001, she bought it and began tweaking recipes for the better, she says, making almost everything from scratch including breads and soups. The **Hasty Burrito** ($7.25) spotlights the potatoes (on the side) and medium-heat green chile and eggs with sausage and a liquefied cheddar splatter. The buttery-bunned **Coyote Burger** ($7.50) finds heat through pepper jack and roasted green chile strips, while airy onion rings play backup vocals. Dessert is a monstrous **house cinnamon roll** ($3.25) lacquered with cream cheese icing. — ***Matthew Schniper***

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Film

Blech magic woman

Beautiful Creatures (PG-13)

By Scott Renshaw

Look, I'm gonna be frank here: This whole paranormal and/or apocalyptic teen romance subgenre that appears to have taken over young-adult literature, movies and the world? It needs to die — and in a way that does not permit a supernatural resurrection.

Many eyes will pour over a promising script, but the success of its ultimate execution depends on many factors, including hackneyed teen plot points.

Of course there will be exceptions. Just a couple of weeks ago, *Warm Bodies* gave the notion a welcome, big-picture twist. But in general, they're a mess, soggy melodramas that wallow in the operatic narcissism of teenagers' emotional lives.

It's understandable that they appeal to youngsters who are convinced that their crushes are The Thing Around Which the Fate of Everything Revolves; to anyone who has lived through a few break-ups, on the other hand, the drama gets really old, really fast.

Beautiful Creatures is only the latest example of what happens when one of the many possible rich allegories for adolescent anxiety and alienation gets blown up past the point where it's possible to care about anyone involved.

Based on the first in a novel series by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, it's set in a small South Carolina town where 17-year-old Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenreich) has grown disenchanted with everything about the parochial local attitudes.

He becomes intrigued with the new girl in town, mysterious Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert), who has moved in with her reclusive uncle Macon (Jeremy Irons). Ethan soon discovers that Lena comes from a family of magical "casters," and that her impending 16th birthday will mark the moment when her powers will be claimed either by the forces of light or, as she fears, given family history, darkness.

It's perfectly promising stuff to combine Ethan's sense of being out of place with Lena's, and writer/director Richard LaGravenese (*P.S. I Love You*) doesn't over-complicate the mythology even as he introduces various other family members visiting for Lena's birthday ceremony.

But he has stranded us with a story that focuses primarily on Lena and Ethan falling in love, an act which, as it turns out, is somehow deeply rooted in the history of Lena's ancestors, and is The Thing Around Which Blah Blah Blah.

It doesn't help that the lead actors are a blandly attractive pair, the performances skimming along the surface of whatever real feelings should be part of characters who have known genuine tragedy aside from whom they'll go with to the big dance. LaGravanese rarely seems sincere about making them actual people, rather than the latest anonymous stand-ins for viewer fantasies.

The much more interesting side of *Beautiful Creatures* is the one that proves far more playful and angst-free. Emma Thompson plays a dual role as both the fire-and-brimstone mother of Ethan's best friend, and a wicked caster named Sarafine who possesses that body, and chomps into both of them with gleeful abandon.

It's a glorious distraction from the central story when Irons and Thompson, representing Lena's two possible fates, face one another in the middle of a church for a wonderful ham-off.

Combined with Emmy Rossum's juicy supporting role as Lena's temptress cousin, it's hard not to wish that we could all take a detour from the main narrative and just follow these other characters, who seem to be having so much more fun.

Various magical kerfuffles eventually take over the third act of *Beautiful Creatures*, as Lena tries to alter her destiny, but that only makes it harder to figure out what this story really wants to be.

Is it important that we spend so much time on the townsfolk's fearful Christianity and clinging to Civil War recreations, as part of some half-hearted exploration of intolerance? Is it sincere about building the centuries-spanning connection between Ethan and Lena? Or is it meant to have fun with the self-seriousness of other brooding teen romances that shall remain nameless, leaning toward something that's almost campy in its sensibility?

Beautiful Creatures may ultimately take itself blessedly less seriously than some of its genre kin, but it also shows how much better it might have been taking itself even *less* seriously.

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Amour (PG-13)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant
Beautiful Creatures (PG-13)	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy
Rust and Bone (R)	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Brilliant	Brilliant
Side Effects (R)	Brilliant	Wait for DVD	Brilliant	Brilliant
Stand Up Guys (R)	Lame	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

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Film

End game

***Amour** (PG-13)*

By Tricia Olszewski

Even with a title like *Amour* (*Love*), you can expect that Michael Haneke has a divisive trick up his sleeve. Yet the famously antagonizing writer-director — known in part for offering his *Funny Games* in two languages, presumably in order to bait the maximum hatred — has made his most tender film to date: a story about an active, sharp-minded elderly couple whose lives are upended when one of them falls ill.

Emmanuelle Riva is up for an Oscar. She's already netted a slew of other awards here.

It's the morning after Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) attended a concert of one of her now-famous former students when disaster strikes. Though it strikes quietly. They are simply chatting at breakfast when, suddenly, Anne checks out. She goes blank, not responding to questions or a cool cloth on her face. Georges starts getting dressed to go get help when Anne comes to again, though she has no memory of what happened.

"Are you mad?" he asks her. "Is this a prank?" No, it isn't. It was a stroke, and an unsuccessful operation to unblock an artery leaves her partially paralyzed.

At first, Anne's mind is still there, though she needs help with everything from using the bathroom to getting in and out of bed. She asks Georges to promise that he'll never send her to a hospital. But then things start to deteriorate, and Anne knows it, telling Georges that she wishes to end her life because things will only get worse. Naturally, he recoils at the thought, and continues to care for her, though her condition does worsen, and rapidly.

Soon she can barely speak and talks only gibberish when she does, refuses to drink, and essentially becomes a vegetable. The couple's daughter, Eva (Isabelle Huppert), is horrified at how matter-of-factly, and, arguably coldly, her father handles things, becoming irate when she tries to bring up alternate care and even telling her, "I don't have time for your concern."

Amour is an unblinking look at the pressures of being a caregiver, especially an unexpected one, as well as the heartbreaking realities the infirm elderly face as they near death. Georges has to learn how to bathe Anne, how to change her diapers, how to respond when she's not talking sense. Dignity, or indignity, as the case may be, is a prominent theme, too.

Who in their right mind would want to go on living as Anne does? The worst part, perhaps, is that she foresaw this happening, yet Georges dismissed her wish to die on her terms. When do you let go, especially when there's an ever-so-slight promise that the person might recover?

Trintignant and Riva are tremendous in their roles, even if you come to hate Georges for his harshness with his perpetually tearful daughter. (Huppert's part is small but affecting.) The nearly 86-year-old Riva, however, is gathering all the accolades for her portrayal of a woman who, once vibrant, suddenly speeds toward death.

Neither Haneke nor Riva do anything to soften Anne's state, and much of the film is difficult to watch. An unexpected turn of events in the last chapter will be understood by some but despised by many. And thus Haneke leaves his imprint on this love story that could have easily become a melodramatic yawn.

— scene@csindy.com

CineFiles

***Yelling to the Sky** (NR)*
MPI Media Group

While many films about teens take great pains to fulfill the always-necessary plot point of not fitting in with the expectations of every possible social stratum, very rarely do they take on a racial angle. That is what makes this uncompromising drama so remarkable. Zoë Kravitz (*X-Men: First Class*) delivers a powerful performance as a mixed-race teenager who struggles to find herself, feeling out of place in a world of drugs and gangs in one of the roughest Queens neighborhoods. Her extremely volatile home life is not any better, as she's left dealing with an alcoholic dad and an unstable mom. When her situation gets worse, it becomes one constantly tense situation after another as she begins her inevitable downward turn. This is a teen movie that totally breaks free of the typical rich kid, suburban trappings, making it one of the best to come along in a long time. ***— Louis Fowler***

***The Kid With a Bike** (PG-13)*
Criterion

We tell ourselves that kids are resilient, usually because we have to believe it. The world is otherwise too unjust to bear for kids like Cyril (Thomas Doret), the 11-year-old in the Dardenne brothers' latest instant classic, which took home the grand jury prize at 2011's Cannes Film Festival. Cyril's been given up on by just about every authority figure — no one claims grown-ups are all that resilient — including his father, who casts the kid away following Cyril's relentless pursuit of the absentee dad. He's taken in by Samantha, a salon owner whose motivation isn't clear but whose fierce maternal instinct is entirely evident. As she wards off drug dealers looking to recruit Cyril and an ultimatum-issuing boyfriend opposed to Cyril's presence, the Dardennes, still operating at cinema's highest level, show how even the strongest children need a champion. ***— Justin Strout***

***The Duellists** (PG) (Blu-ray)*
Shout! Factory

Before Ridley Scott directed ground-breaking science-fiction epics like *Alien* and *Blade Runner*, he made his debut in 1977 with this subtle film, an interesting study of obsessive honor and the importance that violence adds to upholding it. It's like nothing that Scott's done since, and one wonders, with all of his experience and notoriety behind him, what it would look like today. Keith Carradine and an unrecognizable Harvey Keitel are two Napoleonic officers with chips on their shoulders that, after a seemingly minor incident, force them to continually challenge each other to one escalating duel after another for over 30 years. Based on the story by Joseph Conrad, this is no swashbuckling tale of derring-do, but instead a real journey into the bitter hearts of bitter men who give up everything in an attempt to return honor to their tarnished names and egos. ***— Louis Fowler***

Wasted on the way

James McMurtry talks about Lou Reed, gun control, and why Leonard Cohen must die

By Bill Forman

James McMurtry doesn't necessarily think of himself as a political songwriter, but he's gotten pretty used to other people thinking that. Especially in the aftermath of "We Can't Make It Here," an unforgiving state-of-the-union indictment that the acerbic singer-songwriter distributed as a free download during the 2004 presidential campaign.

McMurtry: 'I remember when Mellencamp got the New York *album; he said, "Yeah, it sounds like it was produced by an eighth-grader, but I like it."'*

While McMurtry hasn't released a studio album since 2008's excellent *Just Us Kids*, the Texas native has kept busy. He tours extensively, plays weekly Wednesday night gigs at the Continental Club whenever he's back home in Austin, and re-recorded "We Can't Make It Here," with Steve Earle and Joan Baez contributing vocals, as his standout contribution to last year's four-disc *Occupy This Album* collection.

"That was the brainchild of my ex-manager Mark Spector, who also manages Joan Baez," says McMurtry of the remake.

"He quit *my* business a long time ago, because back then 20 percent of nothing *was* nothing. He threw up his hands and ran screaming back to Connecticut. But he still manages Joan, and she is buddies with Steve, so that's how that happened."

CAPSULE

James McMurtry, with Jason Miller

Sunday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave.

Tickets: $20/adv, $25/door; loftmusicvenue.com 445-9278.

It's easy to see why such socially conscious artists would be attracted to a song with lines like:

"Should I hate a people for the shade of their skin / Or the shape of their eyes or the shape I'm in / Should I hate 'em for having our jobs today / No I hate the men sent the jobs away."

Other McMurtry tracks like "Cheney's Toy" contain some of the most caustic political commentary since Phil Ochs' heyday. But like Warren Zevon and Randy Newman before him, he offers an equal-opportunity iconoclasm on signature songs like "Choctaw Bingo": *We're gonna strap them kids in / Give 'em a little bit o' Benadryl and a Cherry Coke.*

Just how dark can McMurtry's sense of humor get? Consider a couple of *Just Us Kids* song titles: "You'd a' Thought (Leonard Cohen Must Die)" is a sly reference to Cohen's "A Singer Must Die," while "God Bless America (Pat Macdonald Must Die)" targets the former Timbuk3 singer who ended up playing harp on the track.

"Actually, there were a couple of 'Must Dies' that I recorded that *didn't* get on the record. And one of them [Stephen Bruton] *did* die," recalls McMurtry. "'Leonard Cohen Must Die' happened because the lyrics kind of reminded me of Cohen's stuff. I was writing it while the band was in the studio waiting for me to show up with the lyrics. So I came in and said, 'Well, if it wasn't for Leonard Cohen, you wouldn't have been waiting all day. Leonard Cohen must die.' And then that became kind of the buzzword joke for the whole session."

Like father, like son

For McMurtry — who'll be playing a solo show at the Loft on Sunday — being typecast as a political songwriter does have its upside. He spends less time these days answering questions about his father, author Larry McMurtry, whose storytelling mastery is also evident in his own work. The musician's John Mellencamp-produced debut album, *Too Long in the Wasteland*, came out in 1989, the same year his father's *Lonesome Dove* was adapted into a TV mini-series that made him a household name.

While the musician's deep voice and deeper lyrics are unmistakable, his earliest work suggests a number of influences, including Lou Reed.

"Yeah, sure, I was a Lou Reed fan," says McMurtry, "and a lot of people thought my voice and production were like that. It's actually kind of scary, because my favorite record of his is *New York*, which came much later than the stuff that a lot of people liked. I heard one of those songs in the outro of a movie right as I was finishing up making *Too Long in the Wasteland*, and I remember coming out of there thinking, this is scary. Because the production sounded so much like that. I remember when Mellencamp got the *New York* album; he said, 'Yeah, it sounds like it was produced by an eighth-grader, but I like it.'"

McMurtry is currently working on a new album with C.C. Adcock at the production helm. Given the Grammy-nominated producer's Louisiana heritage, it'll likely be more swampy-sounding than its predecessor. McMurtry says the album will feature his touring band "and whoever else C.C. drags into it. He works in New Orleans, so he can find horn players and accordion players and people we don't know."

Adcock also recently produced a re-recorded "Choctaw Bingo" as a promotion for Lagunitas Brewing Co., which sponsors a lot of his tours. "I put an extra verse in it that I just wrote for that project."

A verse about beer?

"No, the verse is about an aunt with a painkiller addiction," says McMurtry with a rare laugh, "which I failed to cover in the original."

Born in the NRA

No interview with McMurtry would be complete without some discussion of current affairs, especially at a point where gun control has once again become the focal point of national debate.

"I was riding around with a cousin of mine this past weekend, and he asked if I was gonna write about Obama. I said, 'Well, you know, "We Can't Make It Here" works pretty well with Obama, just as it did with Bush.' And he said, 'At least Bush didn't come after our guns.' I said, 'Obama's not either. And you don't have to worry about whether Obama wants our guns or not. The problem for *you* is: How many millions of your fellow American voters want somebody to come get your guns?'"

Of course, that distinction isn't all that reassuring for the National Rifle Association's "pry it from my cold, dead fingers" crowd. I ask McMurtry if he really thinks there are that many people set on confiscating guns, versus, say, closing loopholes.

"There may be, I don't know. I haven't met very many. But there *are* a lot of people that believe *somebody* wants to come and take their guns. And if you have a conversation about any kind of limits on magazine capacity or whatever else, then you're a traitor to the cause and get excommunicated from the church, basically. Because it *is* a church. It's a cult."

That said, McMurtry's own views have shifted in the wake of Newtown. While still skeptical of the selective ban on semi-automatic weapons found in the Clinton Crime Bill (which expired in 2004), he now agrees with the provision that restricted magazine capacity to 10 rounds.

The reason, he says, is that deputy sheriffs and patrolmen are no longer being instructed to hold off until more highly trained SWAT teams arrive on the scene to confront the assailant. "If a shooter has to change mags, they'll have a second-and-a-half or two with no return fire. And that might help, you know?"

It was in the aftermath of an earlier school shooting that McMurtry got fed up with the NRA.

"I was an NRA member until I saw that footage of Charlton Heston waving that damn Pennsylvania rifle over his head in Columbine two weeks after the shooting. That's just subhuman behavior. That was a community that needed to mourn their children. They needed to be left alone. And they went in there and did *that*. You know, a *dog* knows better than to do that.

"It's made out now that Democrats have a monopoly on gun legislation, which is not the case," McMurtry points out. "I mean, Reagan signed the Brady Bill into law. But of course, Reagan got shot. That can change your attitude, you know?"

— bill@csindy.com

REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

So did you get your **Carrie Underwood** tickets? Me neither. But the good news is that, as of Monday, you could still find tickets for Wednesday's sold-out **World Arena** show online from resellers, otherwise known as scalpers, for a mere $140 each. Or you could always listen to Pueblo's **KIQ'N Country** (106.9-FM), which has been celebrating her appearance by playing her "Blown Away" single nonstop.

Blown away: A new generation of atists is challenging expectations when it comes to contemporary country.

Actually, you might want to listen to the station anyway, especially if you're under the impression that contemporary country is a repository for redneck sentiments accompanied by generic pop arrangements. Sure, you'll hear **Dustin Lynch** drawling "I got the rifle, she's got the rack" on the thoughtful "She Cranks My Tractor," a prime example of Nashville's unflagging enthusiasm for capitalizing on chauvinist sentiments.

But there are also other young country artists moving in less hackneyed directions: **Kacey Musgraves**' plaintive, banjo and pedal steel-driven debut single "Merry Go 'Round" cracked the Country Top 20 last month with its unflinching critique of small-town values: "Mama's hooked on Mary Kay / Brother's hooked on Mary Jane / And Daddy's hooked on Mary two doors down/ Mary Mary quite contrary / We get bored so we get married / And just like dust we settle in this town."

Which brings us back to country-pop superstar Underwood, whose no-less-impressive "Blown Away" employs the forces of nature to exact revenge on the song's abusive father. ("There's not enough rain in Oklahoma / To wash the sins out of that house.")

Granted, **Mark Bright**'s production and arrangements have zero to do with any known form of country music, but that didn't stop it from topping the genre's singles chart. It also suggests that a growing segment of country musicians are giving their audiences far more credit than an artist like Lynch ever will.

'There will be folk, bluegrass, country, and stuff that's none of the above.'

Meanwhile, allow me to recommend some less costly live music options this week. On Wednesday, **Joe Johnson** will be debuting his first new band since **Creating a Newsense** at **Front Range Barbeque**, featuring **Inaiah Lujan** and **Sean Fanning** of the **Haunted Windchimes, Josh Desmidt** of **Broken Spoke**, and **Jake Klock** on fiddle.

"It's got a real authentic and simple feel that facilitates the songs perfectly," says Johnson of the new outfit, which will begin recording the follow-up to his *A Time to Dance* album later this month. "There will be folk, bluegrass, country, and stuff that's none of the above, and it all works well together."

Those with more avant-garde inclinations can catch **Ensemble Peak FreQuency**'s "*statio hiberna*/winter stasis" concert at **GOCA** (121 S. Tejon St.) that same evening. The concert will feature **Karen Bentley Pollick** on violin, **Colin McAllister** on guitar, **Jane Rigler** on flute, and **Glen Whitehead** on trumpet. (Rigler and Whitehead also perform in **Phrames of Mind**, whose impressive debut at **Modbo** was the subject of much raving in this column last month.)

Wednesday's show will include selections from Pollick's multimedia project, "Violin, Viola & Video Virtuosity," along with compositions by **Elliot Carter** and **Claude Debussy**, plus the premiere of Whitehead's "Equipoise (breath in repose.)"

In a completely different realm, I should mention the sets I caught by a reunited **Lazy Spacemen** and the relatively new **Rough Age** at **Zodiac** last Friday. The former featured the best live version of **Mission of Burma**'s "That's When I Reach for My Revolver" I've witnessed — apart from a rendition by MoB itself a few years back — as well as brilliant originals from frontman **Chuck Snow.**

Rough Age, meanwhile, consists of Americana-damaged duo **Wild Hares** backing **Nathan Archer**, who also plays in local neo-soul band the **Sugar Hi-5**. Archer's a gifted songwriter and vocalist, and the band's overall sound is reminiscent of **Elvis Costello** when he still had it. They cover **Television**'s "Venus de Milo," which is never a bad thing. My only reservation, really, was the inclusion of whistling on not one, but two songs, something that no musician should ever do unless they're **Otis Redding**. (And just look how *that* turned out.)

You can catch Archer again when Rough Age opens for **Monophonics** at the **Black Sheep** on Thursday, and Sugar Hi-5 plays the **Ancient Mariner** on Friday.

Also look for both the Lazy Spacemen and Wild Hares sharing a bill with Chicago's bluesy **Steepwater Band** at the Black Sheep on Sunday.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13 THROUGH TUESDAY, FEB. 19

Wednesday 02/13

Black Sheep, *The Rouge, The Myth of Modern Medicine (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night, 10 p.m.*
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic)*, 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Joe Johnson & His Band (Americana)*, 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz)*, 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana)*, 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Chuck Pyle's An Evening at the Star (country)*, 7 p.m., $10.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Thursday 02/14

Adam's, *Jim Enquist (acoustic)*, 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band, 9 p.m.*
Black Sheep, *Monophonics, Rough Age, Mark's Midnight Carnival Show (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Cucuru, *Discount Jazz and Blues (jazz)*, 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world)*, 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Johnny Graves & the Blues Waves (blues)*, 8 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz)*, 7 p.m.
Ritz, *Valentine's Day, with DJ Ron Perry (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson, DJ Manyacal (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m.
Upstairs at La Baguette, *The Storys (folk)*, 7:30 p.m.
Venue 515, *Wayne Wilkinson Group, with Nelson Rangell (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m., $30-$35.

Friday 02/15

Adam's, *Jim Enquist (acoustic)*, 9 a.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Sugar Hi-5 (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Benny's, *Big Sky (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Mod Sun, Cisco Adler, Tayyib Ali (indie)*, 8 p.m., $12-$14.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz)*, 7 p.m.
Cleats, *6035 (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Buffalo Head Fred (Americana)*, 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Discount Jazz and Blues (jazz)*, 7 p.m.

VENUE DIRECTORY

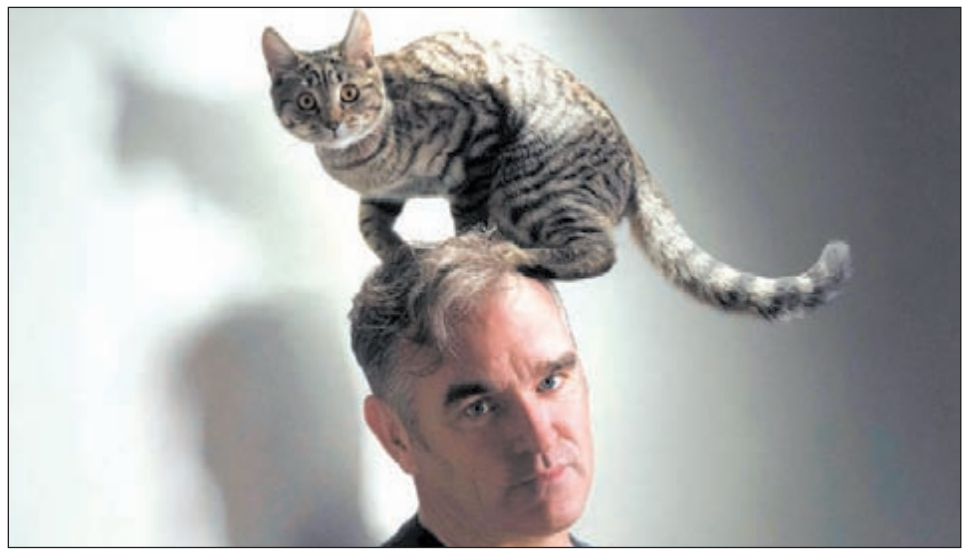
Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
The Grove Tavern, 901 E. C St., Pueblo, 719/544-4815
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 344-9593
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Lounge in the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, 5200 Nature Cen-

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Front Range, *Dave Richey & The Ruined Nation Boys (bluegrass)*, 7:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world)*, 7 p.m.
Grove Tavern, *Cari Dell Trio (blues)*, 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *DJ Rob G (dance)*, 10 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *In the Pocket (rock/pop)*, 9:30 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B)*, 9 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Mountain Road Ceili Band (world)*, 6:30 p.m.
McCabe's Tavern, *Lissa Hanner and Super Chuck (rock/pop)*, 6 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *KnightBeats (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Corey Slater (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Motif, *Colin McAllister (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m.
Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, *Gary Bennett, "The Human Jukebox" (rock/pop)*, 5 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *Lea Luna, DJ mLe, Adam Consigli (dance)*, 8 p.m.
Rico's, *Wayne Wilkinson Jazz Trio (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, *Hot Club of San Francisco (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m., $27-$30.
Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
SoDo, *DJ GÜ (dance)*, 8 p.m., $10.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *6035 (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Valentine's Dance Party feat. Tiny Barge (blues)*, 8 p.m., $10.
Subterranean, *New DJ Night feat. Dope Syndrome (dance)*, 8 p.m., $5.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson, DJ Manyacal (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m.
Townhouse, *Lethal Lisa McCall (blues)*, 8 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *Horace Pinker, Pitch Invasion, Bear Suit Sucker Punch (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.
Union Station, *Young Ghost (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Saturday 02/16

Ancient Mariner, *Lost Junction, Tiffany Christopher (Americana)*, 9 p.m.
Benny's, *Westside Rhythm Kings (blues)*, 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *twenty | one | pilots, New Politics, Motion Trap (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m., $10-$12.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Exit West (country)*, 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Tom Lereke (jazz)*, 8 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz)*, 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *DJ Rob G (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *The Fright (rock/pop)*, 9:30 p.m.
Lounge in the Village, *Legend Band (country)*, 8 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Seven (dance)*, 9 p.m.



Morrissey and friends will come to the Buell Theatre in Denver on Feb. 21.

BigGigs

OM, Larimer Lounge, Denver, Feb. 13 • **The Rouge**, Black Sheep, Feb. 13 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Monophonics**, Black Sheep, Feb. 14 • **Marcia Ball**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Feb. 15 • **Hot Club of San Francisco**, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo, Feb. 15 • **Mod Sun**, Black Sheep, Feb. 15 • **Bunny**, Subterranean Nightclub, Feb. 16 • **twenty | one | pilots**, Black Sheep, Feb. 16 • **Michael Johnson**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Feb. 17 • **James McMurtry**, The Loft, Feb. 17 • **Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular**, Pikes Peak Center, Feb. 17 • **The Steepwater Band**, Black Sheep, Feb. 17 • **Stone Sour, Papa Roach**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Feb. 17 • **Gold Fields**, Black Sheep, Feb. 19 • **10 Years**, Black Sheep, Feb. 21 • **Morrissey**, Buell Theatre, Denver, Feb. 21 • ***Rock & Worship Roadshow*, with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tedashii**, World Arena, Feb. 21 • **Ballyhoo!** Black Sheep, Feb. 22 • **Western Underground**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Feb. 22 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 • **Toro y Moi**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 23 • **What Made Milwaukee Famous**, Black Sheep, Feb. 23 • **Natty Vibes**, Black Sheep, Feb. 24 • **Tremonti**, Black Sheep, Feb. 25 • **Passion Pit**, 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, March 1 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **Adrian Legg**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 10 • **Curtis Salgado**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 15 • **Altan**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, March 16 • **Vagabond Opera**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 16 • **Firefall**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 22 • **Imagine Dragons**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 23 • **Candye Kane**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 23 • **Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band, Joe Walsh**, Pepsi Center, Denver, April 2 • **Alt-J**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, April 3 • **The Elders**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 6 • **Bad Religion**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 10 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Moses Jones**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 10 • **Chris Cagle**, Cowboys, April 11 • **Bullet for My Valentine**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 12 • **Big Bill Morganfield**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 13 • **Peter Yarrow**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, April 13 • **The Motet, Ozomatli**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 20 • **Paramore**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 7

MoodSwings, *Corey Slater (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Motif, *Julie Bradley and Friends (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *New Vintage Jazz (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Party Marty (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *The Reid Holmes Invitational "Live Music Jam" (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
SoDo, *DJ GÜ (dance)*, 8 p.m., $10.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *6035 (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Stargazers, *Yesterday: A Tribute to The Beatles, with Dick Cunico (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $20-$25.
Subterranean, *Bunny (from Rabbit in the Moon)* (dance), 8 p.m., $15.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *The KnightBeats, Green Genes (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Union Station, *Habitual Reunion, Bodycast (metal)*, 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Zodiac Two Year Anniversary Masquerade Ball, with MoonHoney (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m., $5.

Sunday 02/17

Black Sheep, *The Steepwater Band, Wild Hares, The Lazy Spacemen (Americana)*, 7 p.m., $10-$12.
Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world)*, 3 p.m.
The Loft, *James McMurtry, J. Miller (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m., $20-$25.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop)*, 3 p.m.
Stargazers, *Michael Johnson (folk)*, 7 p.m., $20-$25.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.
Zodiac, *Soul Sessions V (R&B)*, 8 p.m.

Monday 02/18

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone, 7 p.m.*

Tuesday 02/19

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic)*, 6:30 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Gold Fields, A Silent Film, Royal Teeth (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m., $10.39-$12.
Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic)*, 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *Samothrace, Blighter, Black Sleep of Kali (metal)*, 9 p.m., $5.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Johnny Coffin (dance)*, 9 p.m.

ter Road, Pueblo, 719/549-2414
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
SoDo Night Club, 527 S. Tejon St., 314-0420
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Subterranean Nightclub, 128½ E. Kiowa St., 578-7771
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
Upstairs at La Baguette, 2417 W. Colorado Ave., 577-4818
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

VOTED BEST VENUE IN THE SPRINGS!
THE BLACK SHEEP
2106 E. PLATTE AVE, CO SPRINGS
ON SALE THIS WEEK!
DESERT NOISES - MAR 1 (ON SALE NOW)
PEELANDER-Z - MAR 21 (ON SALE NOW)
RADICAL SOMETHING - APR 6 (ON SALE NOW)
Wed, Feb. 13th - 8:00pm
THE ROUGE
THE MYTH OF MODERN MEDICINE, WHY THEY FIGHT
Thu, Feb. 14th - 8:00pm
MONOPHONICS
ROUGH AGE, MARK'S MIDNIGHT CARNIVAL SHOW
Fri, Feb. 15th - 8:00pm
MOD SUN
CISCO ADLER, TAYYIB ALI, PAT BROWN
Sat, Feb. 16th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
TWENTY ONE PILOTS
NEW POLITICS, MOTION TRAP
Sun, Feb. 17th - 7:00pm
THE STEEPWATER BAND
WILD HARES, THE LAZY SPACEMEN
Tue, Feb. 19th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
GOLD FIELDS
A SILENT FILM, ROYAL TEETH
Thu, Feb. 21st - 7:00pm
10 YEARS
YOUNG GUNS, INELEMENTS
Fri, Feb. 22nd - 7:00pm
BALLYHOO!
KAYAVIBE, THE KNIGHTBEATS, OFFBEAT REVOLUTION
Sat, Feb. 23rd - 8:00pm
WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Sun, Feb. 24th - 8:00pm
NATTY VIBES
NICK PAULY (OF OFFBEAT REVOLUTION)
Mon, Feb. 25th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO
TREMONTI
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Wed, Feb. 27th - 8:00pm
DARK TIME SUNSHINE
VOID PEDAL, MOODIE BLACK, BULLHEAD*DED, MAD TREES
UPCOMING EVENTS
MAR 2 - AVATAR
MAR 5 - SUMERIAN RECORDS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS & SHINY TOY GUNS - SOLD OUT!
MAR 10 - SALVADOR SANTANA
MAR 11 - THE SWINGIN UTTERS
MAR 14 - WHY THEY FIGHT
MAR 16 - THE BEN MILLER BAND
MAR 18 - CLUTCH
MAR 19 - PAPER BIRD
MAR 20 - TECH N9NE
MAR 21 - PEELANDER-Z
MAR 28 - AIR DUBAI
APR 1 - ADRENALINE MOB
APR 2 - MINUS THE BEAR
APR 3 & 4 - AS I LAY DYING, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
APR 6 - RADICAL SOMETHING
APR 17 - FAMILY OF THE YEAR
APR 20 - VOODOO GLOW SKULLS
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02/20 Sub.Mission Dubstep Showcase II
02/22 Impulse Friday EDM Cognition vs T-Rav
02/23 Peaks and Pasties Anti- Valentine's Day Party
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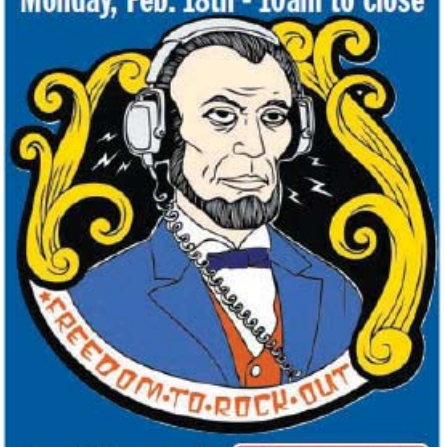

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AudioFile

Perfectly aligned

Royal Teeth gets a taste of success on the first bite

By Chris Parker

CAPSULE
Royal Teeth, with Gold Fields, A Silent Film
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. doors
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave.
Tickets: $10.39/adv, $12/door, all-ages; blacksheeprocks.com, 227-7625.

Most bands toil for years before anything resembling opportunity comes along. Things happened a lot quicker for Royal Teeth, who first started making exultant atmospheric indie-pop in November 2010.

Robby Klein

'It's a little surprising, very flattering, very exciting, and very nerve-wracking.'

By the following July, the Lafayette, La. sextet had already released its debut EP, *Act Naturally*, which included the band's breakthrough track. "Wild" features singers Gary Larsen and Nora Patterson doing the kind of wordless, soaring vocal chant that helped Arcade Fire win friends and influence people.

The song rapidly found its way onto several TV shows as well as becoming the background music for a Canadian Buick commercial. The buzz grew as Royal Teeth did its first national tours, increasing anticipation for a full-length album the band expects to be released sometime this spring.

"It's been a mix of emotions," says Larsen, who's just returned from Toronto, where the group finished most of the tracking with producer Gavin Brown (Three Days Grace, Metric). "It's a little surprising, very flattering, very exciting, and very nerve-wracking. All of that stuff at the same time and all in the best way possible. I don't think any of us expected this band to really take off as soon as it did. I just think it's the perfect mix of everything we have."

Timing certainly plays a role. The music scene's suddenly awash with upbeat synth-laden pop acts like Foster the People, Neon Trees, Imagine Dragons and AWOLNATION. Royal Teeth's six-song EP includes a dreamy, chillout-flavored take on The Knife's classic "Heartbeats" and the jangly, vaguely New Order-ish, "For Keeps."

While Larsen, who also handles guitar duties, may be the band's primary songwriter, he often brings the band little more than the skeleton of a song — some chords and a vocal melody. "Everyone kind of grabs it," he says, "and takes what they want to of it and makes it into something else."

Since the band has been touring nearly nonstop since the EP's release, most of the new material had to be written either on the road or during short breaks back home.

"We'd come home for two or three weeks and we would basically rehearse that entire time," says Larsen. "But surprisingly enough, as soon as we got in the studio, it was go time. There wasn't any hesitation or confusion on what we were doing. I'm not joking, the first day Hef [drummer Josh Hefner] was already tracking drums for three or four songs and was almost done."

A primary goal of the new collection was to capture the band's live energy, which features as many as four members banging on drums at the same time. The percussion-heavy arrangements echo the drum circles of Congo Square, although Royal Teeth's closest connection to New Orleans may be its resilient attitude.

"We just did a show where we were unloading in a snowstorm. This is the not fun part — trying to carry heavy gear and not slip and fall on our butts in three feet of snow. It's pretty intense," Larsen says. "But then we drive and play a show in Chicago and it's just fantastic, and the crowd's amazing, and instantly you realize how much you would love to do it all over again."

— scene@csindy.com

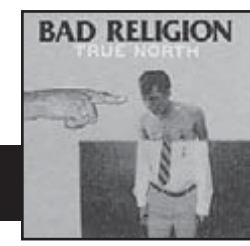
SoundAdvice

My Bloody Valentine
mbv
Self-released
File next to: Slowdive, Spiritualized

In a hiatus of *Chinese Democracy* proportions, Irish band My Bloody Valentine waited 22 years to follow up on its acclaimed 1991 album, *Loveless*. Announced with little warning, *mbv* may not be as breathtaking as *Loveless*, simply because many MBV-influenced bands have come and gone since 1991. But it's still truly psychedelic music, alternately blissful and head-crushing. The vocals of co-singers Kevin Shields and Bilinda Butcher are breathy and dreamy, a compelling dichotomy with the otherworldly, warped sounds they wrench out of their guitars. Meanwhile, the band's feedback-drenched palette is expanded by the shimmering keyboards on "Is This and Yes" and the propulsive drumming of Colm O'Ciosoig, giving *mbv* an intensity that was sometimes lacking on its loop-filled predecessor. Existing fans will be delighted by *mbv,* and hopefully new listeners will come to enjoy their still-peerless sound. ***— Collin Estes***

Jim James
Regions of Light and Sound of God
Ato Records
File next to: Randy Newman, Ronnie Wood

My Morning Jacket has always been famous for a certain '70s arena-rock sound, but lead singer Jim James (who thankfully dropped the silly Yim Yames moniker) can get a bit pompous in side projects like Monsters of Folk. The title of this solo debut suggests an exercise in prog-rock excess. Instead, he goes for understatement with a partly funky, partly countrified excursion into well-crafted but straightforward tunes that are fun to listen to. While songs like "State of the Art" and "God's Love to Deliver" are layered, complex and beautifully produced, it's clear James didn't set out to make an album that explains God, the universe, and everything else beneath Yes-style orchestration. If My Morning Jacket is '70s country-rock, this solo album resembles the laid-back, whiskey-sipping solo albums favored by that era's rock stars. And that's perfectly OK. In fact, it's better than going for grandiose. ***— Loring Wirbel***



Bad Religion
True North
Epitaph Records
File next to: Black Flag, Dead Kennedys

A few punk purists might claim that Greg Graffin keeps making the same Bad Religion album over and over again. If so, we could wish for something even half this vibrant and precise in reunions from the likes of Off! or Fear. Graffin teaches evolution at Cornell University, so his 33-year work with Bad Religion could be seen as a side hobby. But Bad Religion riffs are as crisp as anything in punk, the four-part harmonies and overdubs put the music in overdrive, and Graffin can give us political lyrics equaling anything Jello Biafra offered with the Dead Kennedys. Listen to "Robin Hood in Reverse" or "Dept. of False Hope," then wish like hell you might get Dr. Graffin for an undergrad anthropology course. Sure, hardcorepunk can be limited in style, but the output of Bad Religion over the past decade can put all others to shame, and *True North* is clearly no exception. ***— Loring Wirbel***

Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PICK **Artist Talk,** a series of lectures from LuDel Deal Walter, Audrey Gray, Emily Hines and Erika Walter regarding their exhibited work. Wed., Feb. 13, 6 p.m. Free. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

ArtEvents

Clay Cups, a temporary art installation featuring at least 150 wheel-thrown cups created by Hilary McBeard, placed at a location to be disclosed on the event's Facebook page the day of. People are encouraged to take the free cups "in an interactive manner which will be revealed along with the location." Thurs., Feb. 14, 8 a.m. on.fb.me/Yftg7C.

Fab Lab and Recycling Center, weekly sessions to fix items or create new things with Concrete Couch. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Victor Underground Art Show, a steampunk extravaganza of youth, amateur and professional art. Submission deadline 4 p.m. on Feb. 14; all media accepted. Feb. 15-17. Kinnikinnik Emporium, 318 Victor Ave., Victor, katcando61@yahoo.com.

Woodland Park Art Walk, an evening of art receptions, demonstrations and other activities at a dozen Woodland Park art galleries, including the Seven Arrows Gallery, the Woodland Park Arts Alliance and others. Third Friday of every month, 4-7 p.m. 302-2282, woodlandparkarts.com.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Digital Imaging Photography Show*. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 15, 4 p.m.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon St., 633-7717, asuuc.net. *Art by Bruni Berkowitz*, a collection of oil paintings and collages. Through Feb. 28. Artist's reception, Sun., Feb. 17, noon.

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 636-1901, aratiartists.com. *Art for HeART*, an exhibition of items "for your sweethearts." Through Feb. 28.

CC's Coburn Gallery, Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6606, theideaspace.com. *Basim Magdy: How to Build an Invisible Monument*, a solo show by this Middle Eastern artist, who works in multiple media to alter "entrenched cultural views" and play with notions of irony and absurdity. Through March 8.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Display It Again*, a "secondary art market" for collectors to sell pieces they have previously acquired but no longer have room to display. Through Feb. 25.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org. *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay*, a group exhibit featuring artwork done in clay from locals like Mark Wong to Michigan artist Elaine Ng. Through April 12. Art & Wine — *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay*, Tues., Feb. 19, 6 p.m. ($25-$35).

GOCA 1420 at UCCS, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3567, galleryuccs.org. *styrobot: nothing comes from nothing*, a solo show by Michael Salter for which he has built a giant meditating robot out of collected pieces of foam packing material. Through March 22.

Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Climb*, to honor the gallery's third anniversary, Kreuser, Commons and the AHA galleries will feature a juried show of artwork that relates to the word "climb." Through Feb. 28.

PICK **Marmalade at Smokebrush,** 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Celebration of Black*, an exhibition of the photography of Jana, who has shot prominent performers like Chaka Khan and Bootsy Collins.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Zugraphos*, a solo show by Modbo Collective member Erin Jones, who just returned from studying art abroad. "Zugraphos" is the Greek word for painter, meaning literally "transcriber of life." Through Feb. 22.

Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-3155, mcgallerypl.com. *Alabaster*, an exhibition of works by Dave Foncannon, alabaster sculptor with Pueblo's Steel City Art Works, with paintings by Diana LaMorris and photographs by Bill LaMorris. Through March 18.

S.P.Q.R., 17 B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Student Show*, an exhibit of work by artists who have taken lessons from Modbo/S.P.Q.R. co-owner and curator Brett Andrus. Including: Dave Tweedy, Monique Viger, Cole Bennett, Susan Fletcher and others. Through Feb. 22.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *Art Attack*, a juried show featuring "a lively array of visual, performing and applied arts." Through March 2.

Auditions&Entries

The Business of Art Center seeks submissions for a *Wunderkind Alumni* exhibit to run in conjunction with the annual *Wunderkind* show. Submit digital images of works via e-mail by March 8. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, patrick@thebac.org, thebac.org.

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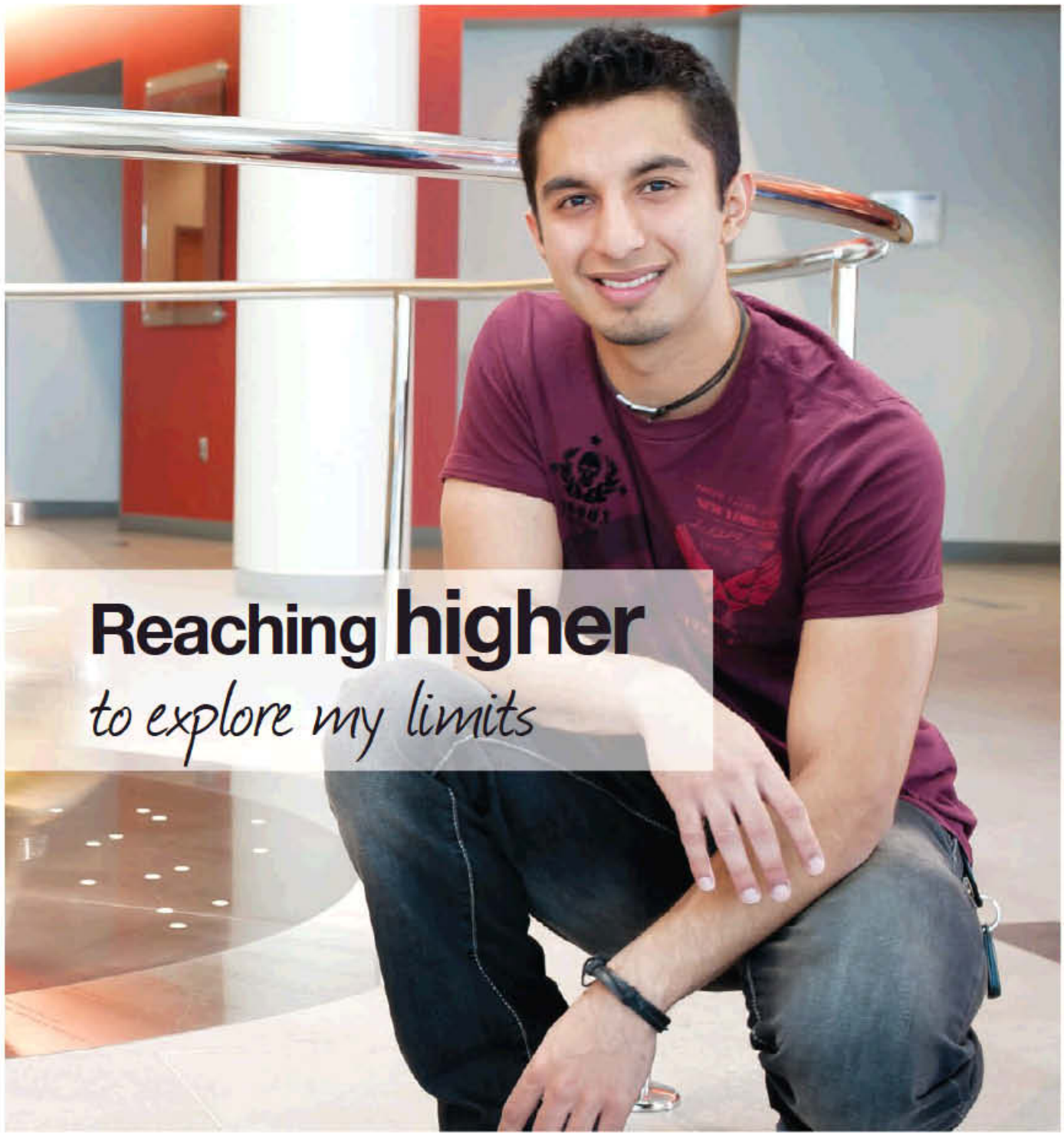

The exciting thing about UCCS is that there's always something different happening on campus. There are so many ways to get involved and that's what changed my life. Before I joined the Asian Pacific Islander Student Union I wasn't very social. Now I've made unbelievable friends and had experiences I wouldn't trade anything for. I'm a much different person than I was a year ago, and I have UCCS to thank for it.

— S.K., Senior, Education major

UCCS University of Colorado Colorado Springs | www.uccs.edu 800-990-UCCS (8227)

University of Colorado
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Canyon Winds Band, a nonprofit concert band, seeks new members of all kinds and performance abilities. $50. 271-8666, dougdowney@centurylink.net.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest. Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance seeks nominees for its annual ATHENA awards honoring businesswomen involved in mentoring and community engagement. Call or e-mail for application information. Deadline Feb. 15. 884-2832, sdahlberg@springsbusinessalliance.com.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts seeks entries for its upcoming show, *The Life Abstract* — abstract, nonfigurative, nonobjective or nonrepresentational works in a variety of media including 3-D will be considered. Intake: March 21-22. Also seeking: entries for *Wily and Wonderful Things* — works celebrating the aesthetics of outsider art and steampunk will be considered, including painting, sculpture and worn art. Intake: May 23-24. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

Mountain Arts Festival seeks arts and crafts entries for its 28th fest. Deadline for entries is May 1. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 686-7469, themountainartists.com.

The Pikes Peak Arts Fest seeks visual artists interested in exhibiting and selling work at the next festival in America the Beautiful Park. Deadline for entries is March 8. pikespeakartsfest.com.

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church seeks a drummer to perform in its upcoming musical, *In Remembrance*. Two rehearsals per week in February and March; performances in early April. Call for details. Through March 31. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 578-5626.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center seeks employers willing to hire youths for summer jobs, participating in the Annual Governor's Summer Job Hunt Youth Job Fair on March 7. Contact 667-3829 or bobgemignani@elpasoco.com to sign up. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

St. Patrick's Day Parade call for entries, the parade committee seeks marching bands, service groups, school and youth groups, 4-H and horse groups, as well as dancers, singers and anyone who wants to build a float. Go online for an application or call for more information. Deadline for entries: Feb. 22, 4 p.m. 635-8803, csstpats.com.

Woodland Park Fine Arts & Crafts Fair seeks artists, authors, craftspeople and musicians to participate in the 2013 fair season. E-mail for application form, dates and rules. Ongoing. 687-3731, psirko@msn.com, woodlandparkfineartsandcraftsfair.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Cheyenne Mountain Poetry Group, a group for those interested in, or currently writing, poetry. First and third Friday of every month. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 337-5130.

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

Deaf Chat, a chance to meet and greet others in the deaf community. Third Friday of every month, 3-6 p.m. Colorado Springs Independence Center, 729 S. Tejon St., 471-8181, csicindliving.org.

National Organization of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Colorado Springs, a support group for families of persons with mental illness. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. NAMI Office, 510 E. Willamette Ave., 473-8477, namicoloradosprings.org.

Parent Education/Toddler Playgroup, a "positive parenting" playgroup for 2- to 3-year-olds. Call for location. Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; through March 8. 785-3714.

Parrotheads of Colorado Springs, a Jimmy Buffett appreciation group committed to supporting the local community through volunteerism and fundraising. E-mail for info on upcoming events and projects. Ongoing. parrotheadscos@gmail.com.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is

PICK **The Bridge Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 629-7055, thebridgeartgallery.com. *Incompatibility*, an exploration of the titular concept in various media by the member artists of the Bridge Gallery. Through Feb. 28.

also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Herb Association, a group offering study groups, educational opportunities, walks, culinary information and more, centering on herbs. Wild Rice Nutrition, 1900 E. Pikes Peak Ave., #8, 533-0707.

Pikes Peak Radio Amateurs Association, encourages interest in HAM radio, plans special events, participates in search-and-rescue efforts and more. Held at the Stetson Hills IHop, 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. 282-8554, ppraa.org.

Sno Jets Ski and Social Club, a club for ski enthusiasts. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Dublin House, 1850 Dominion Way, 265-8820, snojets.org.

Sons of Norway meetings, with cultural presentations. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Viking Hall, 1045 Ford St., 351-3554, sonsofnorwaycs.com.

Stammtisch — Colorado Springs, a German language conversation group held in Edelweiss' *Rathskeller*. Second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Edelweiss, 34 E. Ramona Ave., 633-2220, facebook.com/events/217563261681961.

StartUp Cheers! a networking event with entrepreneurs from the Colorado Springs area. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 924-5479, meetup.com/startupcheers.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

WomenHeart Support Group, a brown-bag-lunch gathering of women living with, or at risk for, heart disease. Second Wednesday of every month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Penrose Hospital Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., 200-2645, womenheart.org.

Comedy&Improv

Shut the F Up and Laugh, a comedy and variety show featuring Gary Washington. Sat., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000, rawkusnation.com.

Concerts

Big Band Sunday, a swingin' performance. Sun., Feb. 17, 3 p.m. $8-$10. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 494-3746.

Buffalo Grass Acoustic Society, a family-friendly performance from Phil Volan and Joleen Bell. Fri., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. $5. Cowboy Church of Peyton, 15540 Bradshaw Road, Peyton, 749-0223, buffalograssacoustic.org.

Casablanca, a rare chance to see the Bogart/Bergman classic on the big screen, with the score performed live by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Thomas Wilson conducting. Sat., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. $19-$59. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, csphilharmonic.org.

Dual Organ Concert, a series of back-to-back performances. Mon., Feb. 18, 6:30 and 7 p.m. Free. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 846 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 636-5011, ilc-cos.org.

An Evening with Flutist Yuki Isami, a Classically Alive concert featuring Japanese flutist Isami. RSVP for location information and to sign up. Sat., Feb. 16, 6 p.m. $30, includes dinner and drinks ($10 for students). 229-2239, classicallyalive.com.

Friends House Concerts, house concerts: Seth Glier, Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. ($20); Antje Duvekot, Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. ($25); Peter Mulvey, Sun., June 16, 7 p.m. ($25). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. house-concerts.org.

Little London Winds, a performance of popular pieces from the wind ensemble. Sun., Feb. 17, 3 p.m. Free. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 633-8888, firstchristiancos.org.

Southern Colorado Handbell Festival, a concert featuring 300 handbell ringers and special guests the Monument Brass Ensemble. Sat., Feb. 16, 7-9:30 p.m. Colorado Springs City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St., 635-6173, springsgov.com.

Torch Songs, a performance of "music of love

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from the American songbook." Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. $10. Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 601 N. Tejon St., 328-1125, gracestste-phensepiscopal.org.

PICK ***Winter Stasis,*** a performance by the Peak Frequency ensemble. Works by Preston Stahly, Charles Norman Mason, Ofer Ben-Amots, Claude Debussy and Glen Whitehead. Wed., Feb. 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $10 donation. GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-5134, uccs.edu/peakfreq/events/2012-2013-season.html.

Yuki Isami, a performance of flute music from the guest artist. Mon., Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. Free. PPCC Centennial Campus, 5675 S. Academy Blvd., 502-3000, ppcc.edu.

DanceParties&Classes

Ballroom Dance Party, bring a friend for free admittance. Third Friday of every month, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. Call 471-3338 to RSVP.

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

Senior +55 Dance, weekly dances with music from the '40s, '50s and '60s. Tuesdays, 6-10:30 p.m. $3 per person (or $5 for two). Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927, treaone.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

Tango Lessons, offering lessons Tuesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900, cucurugallerycafe.com.

Film

Casablanca, a screening of the famed 1942 romantic drama. Thurs., Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Free. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.

PICK **Ballet Folklorico de la Raza fundraiser,** a benefit for this traditional dance troupe, which traveled to Washington, D.C., to perform in the inauguration parade. The fundraiser will feature live music, raffles, dancing and a taco bar ($8). Held at Fraternal Order of Eagles club at 1830 N. Academy Blvd. Sat., Feb. 16, 6 p.m. 573-4826.

Cinemaholics, weekly film screenings with free popcorn and drink specials. Go online for updates. Tuesdays, 9-11:30 p.m. Free. Shuga's, 702 S. Cascade Ave., 328-1412, shugasblog.com.

Gone with the Wind, a screening of the 1939 Academy Award-winning romance. Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. Free. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.

When Harry Met Sally, a screening of Nora Ephron's brilliant 1989 romantic comedy. Fri., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. Free. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.

Food&Drink

Dinner with Our Chef in the Kitchen, a five-course dinner with wine prepared by Chef Larissa Warner. Reservations required. Thursdays, 7 p.m. $35 per person. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz, Mondays, 8 p.m. Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766, jackquinnspub.com; Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566, tonysdowntownbar.com; Wednesdays, 8 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, mccabestavern.com.

Passport to Italia, a dinner benefiting Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, featuring five courses paired with wine. Tues., Feb. 19, 6 p.m. $49. Pizzeria Rustica, 2527 W. Colorado Ave., 475-9700, pizzeriarustica.com.

GetInvolved

PICK **Celebrate Youth In the Arts,** the seventh annual breakfast to benefit the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony. Reservations required. Thurs., Feb. 14, 7:30-8:30 a.m. 633-3562, cscc@kidssing.org.

Making Democracy Work Awards, a celebration of the nine nominees for the League of Women Voters' seventh annual Making Democracy Work Award, which recognizes an individual for her hands-on work in the community. Wed., Feb. 13, 5-7 p.m. $25. Stewart House, 1228 Wood Ave., 447-9400, lwvppr.org.

Pikes Peak United Way seeks volunteers to join its review committee, which helps decide which programs receive funding. Through March 14. 955-0762, ppuwvolunteercenter.org.

PICK **Town Hall 2013,** a gathering hosted by Mayor Steve Bach. Tues., Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m. Old Colorado City Historic Center, 1 S. 24th St., 385-5906, tinyurl.com/a5wobyo.

Health&Healing

Bhagavan Kirtan, an evening of sacred Kirtan chanting. Third Saturday of every month, 8-9:30 p.m. By donation. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Compassion Fatigue Prevention & Resiliency Workshop, a free burnout-prevention workshop for those who give aid during crises. Presented by the Pikes Peak Region Long Term Recovery Group, formed to serve individuals and families affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire. Thurs., Feb. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 219 E. Bijou St., 884-6108, lvandyk@first-pres.org, first-pres.org.

Emotional Freedom Technique Workshop, an opportunity to learn how to use EFT or emotional acupuncture to reduce the impact of uncomfortable emotional memories, manage feelings and accelerate healing. Sun., Feb. 17, 2-3 p.m. $15. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

GLBQTA Yoga, exercise in a safe and empowering environment friendly toward beginners. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Donations welcome. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130, info@yogajuan.com.

"Hey Mom, I've Got A.D.D. and a Couple of Fs," a class from the acclaimed LEAD (Learning and Educating About Disabilities) Foundation for educators and parents of students with learning disabilities and ADHD, focusing on social, emotional and academic implications. Wed., Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 659-0517, leadcolorado.org.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youths who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of veterans or current military personnel suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Scleroderma Support Group, a meeting for "scleroderma patients, family, caregivers, and friends looking for a forum to share feelings, concerns, and information," held at the Girl Scout Service Center, 3535 Parkmoor Village Drive. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Feb. 16, the group will show a video on living with chronic illness. Free. 303/806-6686, scleroderma.org/colorado.

Yoga for Beginners, a donation-based class for beginners. Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunrise Yoga Studio, 313 N. Tejon St., #1, 216-8367, vibranthealthclinic.com.

Yoga for Special Needs, Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m.

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PIKES PEAK CENTER
Tickets on sale at all TicketsWest outlets, the Pikes Peak Center Box Office, by phone at 520-SHOW and online at pikespeakcenter.com.

Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 375-1922, pkomarow@comcast.net.

Kids&Family

Children's History Hour, a special storytime, family-friendly museum tour and take-home craft project for kids. This month's topic is "Rocket Science 101." RSVP requested. Sat., Feb. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. $1. Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org.

Eye Spy, a look into the world as viewed by local animals, with a craft, hike and more. Reservations required. Sat., Feb. 16, 10 a.m. $4-$5. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Lectures&Learning

Achieving Sustainable Development in Colorado Springs, a free, lunch-provided event offering citizens, entrepreneurs and professionals the chance to learn from local sustainability specialists. RSVP recommended. Fri., Feb. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Springs Utilities Conservation and Environmental Center, 2855 Mesa Road, 471-0910 ext. 106, aaby@catamountinstitute.org, catamountinstitute.org/events.

Brazilian Samba Percussion, a group workshop about the basic rhythms of the style. Sat., Feb. 16, 4:30 p.m. $20-$25. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

PICK **"The Ethics of Command,"** a lunch and lecture from retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart. Tues., Feb. 19, 11:30 a.m. $30. UCCS' Upper Lodge, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., uccs.edu.

The Geopolitics of Rare Earth Minerals, a look at how REMs, present in many components of 21st-century technology, shape global politics. Speaker: Dr. Terrance Haverluck, professor of geopolitics in the Department of Economics and Geosciences at the United States Air Force Academy. Thurs., Feb. 14, 5:30-8 p.m. Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd., 488-0880, wmmi.org.

Introduction to Permaculture, a primer on sustainable landscape design for individuals and the community from local experts Brian Fritz, Sara Foster and Becky Elder. Wed., Feb. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, 332 W. Bijou St., #102, 685-0290, rselder@comcast.net, pikespeakpermaculture.org.

"The Progressive Transformation of American Politics," a lecture from Thomas Krannawitter and the Peak Freedom Forum. Wed., Feb. 13. $30. The Vanguard School at Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy, 1605 S. Corona Ave., peakfreedomforum.org.

"The Responsible Company — What We've Learned from Patagonia's First 40 Years," a talk with Vincent Stanley, VP of marketing at this clothing company that "has earned a reputation as much for its groundbreaking environmental and social practices as for the quality of its clothes." Mon., Feb. 18, 11:15 a.m. Free. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu. Stanley will also speak at 5 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the University of Colorado Springs' University Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., room 302.

Rocket Science 101, a talk by Colorado Springs Rocket Society president David Virga on the history, science and uses of rockets, accompanied by launch footage. RSVP by Feb. 15. Sat., Feb. 16, 2-3 p.m. Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org.

LiteraryEvents

"Celebration of Black," a night of poetry and performances from Mark Browning, Midnight Poet and others. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:25 p.m. $10. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

"Hear Here" Poetry Open Mic, an all-ages poetry open mic hosted by Poetry 719. Second and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 964-4499, tinyurl.com/hearhere719.

"History and Science Writing," a conference for those 13 and older who are interested in learning to write and get published. Registration required. RSVP by Feb. 18 for the Feb. 23, 9 a.m. event. $10-$20. Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd., 488-0880, wmmi.org.

The Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project, in conjunction with the Fountain Valley School, seeks original poems from area high-school students for a poetry contest. Deadline for entries is March 1. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 337-0004, dreynolds@fvs.edu, fvs.edu.

Rocky Mountain Haiku Group, a chance to join other devotees of this poetry form for reading and writing haiku. Focus will be on group creation of a long renga poem. Sun., Feb. 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Mediterranean Café, 118 E. Kiowa St., 540-2038, medcafe-co.com.

Word Wednesdays, an open mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

Museums&Attractions

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA*, an exhibit exploring the events leading up to the 1969 moon landing and the role Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters played in the Apollo 10 launch and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. Schultz was also once a Springs resident, which will be another part of the show. Through April 20. "Windows into History," a highlights tour of some of the curators' favorite stories and artifacts. Reservations recommended. Saturdays, 12-12:30 p.m.

The Money Museum, 818 N. Cascade Ave., 632-2646, money.org. *1913 Liberty Head Nickel Exhibition*, a chance to see one of the five famed coins — the last one to sell went for $3.7 million — until April 15. Mini-Mint Demonstration, a demonstration of a mini screw press in action, which will produce commemorative coins visitors can take home. Third Saturday of every month, noon to 4 p.m. Free.

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, Third and Victor avenues, Victor, 719/689-2675, zstudios@ccvnet.net, victorcolorado.com. "Tesla at the Historic Gold Coin Club," featuring tours of the Gold Coin Mine and Gold Coin Club, and a re-enactment by Richard Marold as Nikola Tesla. Part of Victor's Steampunk Weekend. Sat., Feb. 16, 1 p.m. $15.

SpecialEvents

PICK **Bighorn Sheep Day,** the eighth annual celebration of these special denizens of the park, with viewing stations, kids' crafts and games, and a presentation on "Bighorn Sheep Biology and the Impacts of Forest Fires." Sat., Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 634-6666, gardenofgods.com.

Holiday

Couples' Dessert Game Night, a special evening just for couples, focusing on two-person games both current and out-of-print. $20-per-couple; price includes cake and giveaways. Reservations recommended. Sat., Feb. 16, 6:30-9 p.m. $20. Petrie's Family Games, 3502 Hartsel Drive, 522-1099, petriesgames.com/couples-dessert.

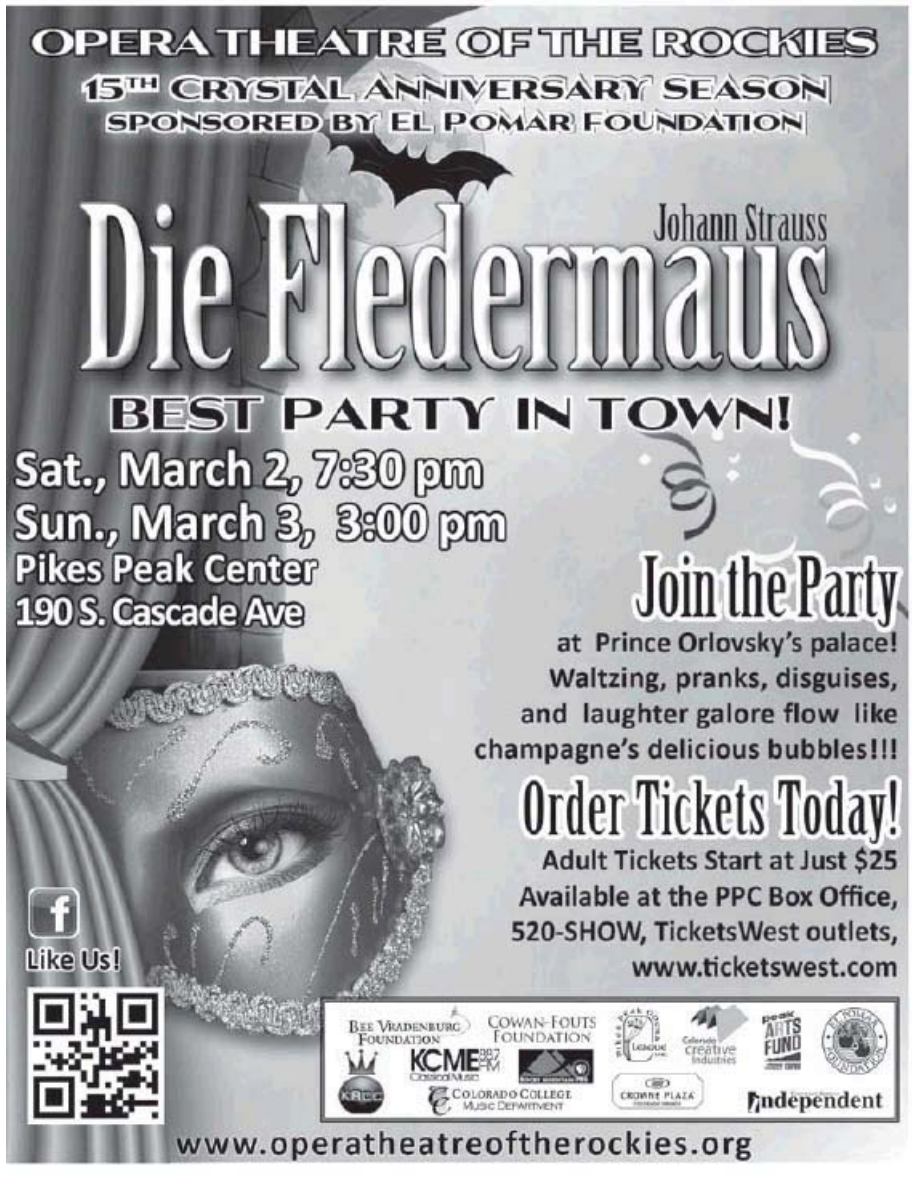
An Evening of Romance, a Valentine's celebration featuring buffet dinner, Champagne toasts and the musical stylings of Phat Daddy and the Phat Horn Doctors. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. $27-95. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 576-8900.

NVision Fall in Love Dance Party, Fri., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. $10. NVision Dance, 750 Garden of the Gods Road, 268-6828, nvisiondance.com.

Special Night Lighting, a chance to hang at a bonfire with chocolate strawberries, complimentary cider, photos and more. Thurs., Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. $18. Seven Falls, 2850 S. Cheyenne Cañon Road, 632-0752, sevenfalls.com.

PICK ***Babette's Night of Amore,*** a cabaret with Babette, Jim Jackson, Hannah Rockey, Sara Barady, Amy Sue Lambert, Xavier Fretard and other local performers. Through Feb. 16. $20. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Cheyenne Village Third Annual Roast, a roast of local businessman and activist Jim Maguire, with



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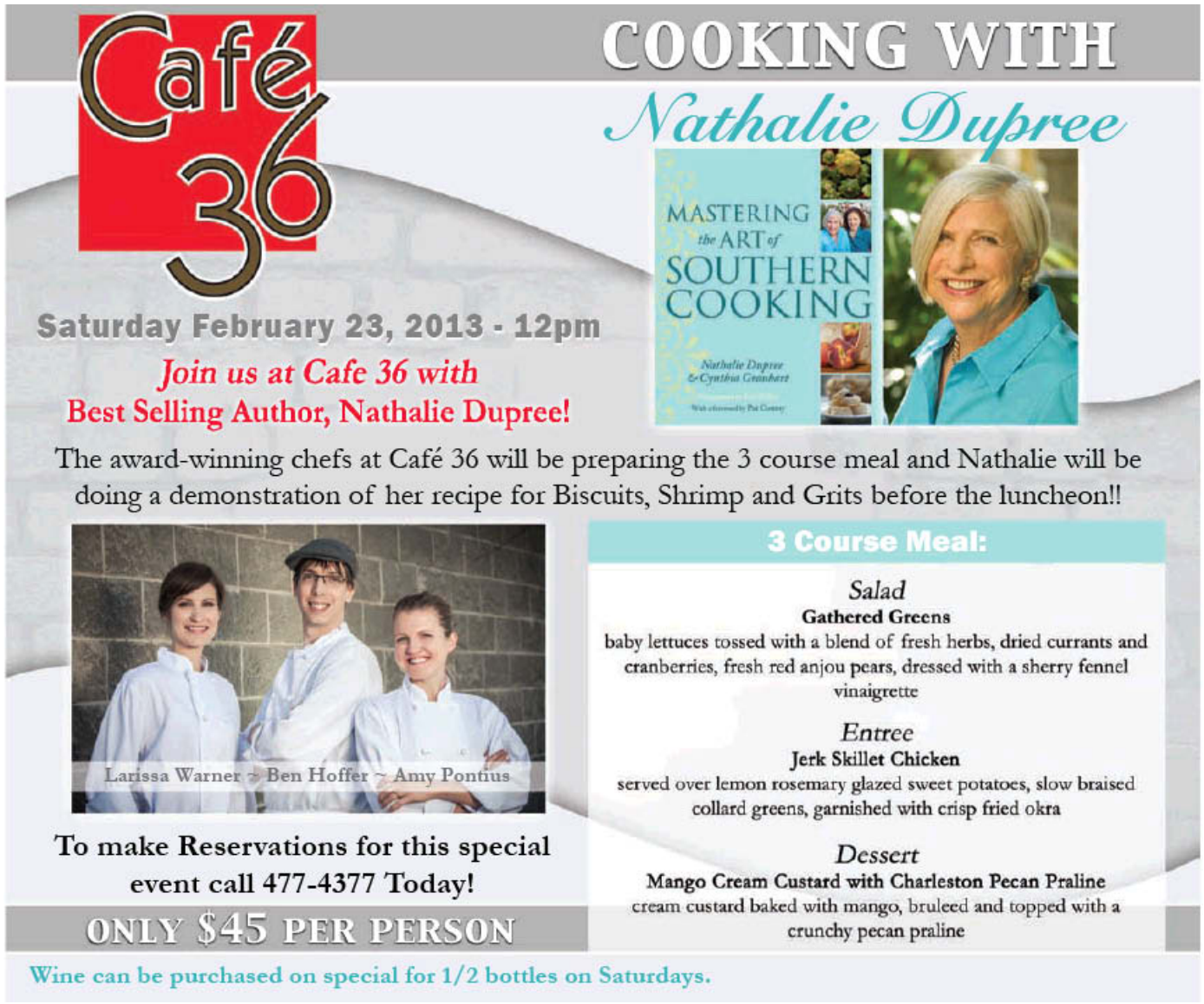
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Wine can be purchased on special for 1/2 bottles on Saturdays.

roasters including Mayor Steve Bach and master of ceremonies Rich Tosches of the *Indy*. RSVP to attend. Sat., Feb. 16, 5:30 p.m. $150. Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road, 800/428-8886, cheyennevillage.org.

Colorado Indulgence Festival, a multi-hour event for those 21 and up, featuring edible art, chocolate martinis, truffles, fudges, cheeses and more. Sun., Feb. 17, noon to 5 p.m. $70-$170. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 955-5600, indulgencefestival.com.

Kissing Cowboy Ball, a fundraiser for the Manitou Springs Heritage Center, featuring food, drinks, dancing, auction items and more. Sat., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. $20-$55. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1454, manitouspringsheritagecenter.org.

Standing Up to Bullying, a kid-focused conference for educators, social workers, counselors and others. RSVP by Feb. 19 for the Feb. 27-28 conference. $35. Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Drive, Monument, 866/544-4075, standinguptobullyingconference.com.

Viva Brazil! a night of live music, dance, performances, lessons, themed drinks and more. Sat., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. $15-$25. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Spirituality

Bhagavan Kirtan, a live performance of an ancient mantra with music and kirtan, the yoga of devotion. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30-9 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 748-3585, yoga-journeys.net.

"Buddhist Psychology of Understanding the Mind," a series on Thursdays through Feb. 14. $7-$10. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 596-6894, cslcs.org.

Celebrate What Matters: Up Close, a touring, female-centric religious conference. Sat., Feb. 16. New Life Church, 11025 Voyager Pkwy., womenoffaith.com.

Community HU Song, a love song to God. Fri., Feb. 15, 7 p.m. Free. Colorado Springs Eckankar Center, 1685 W. Uintah St., #100, 633-0453, eckankar-colorado.org.

"Spiritual Experiences," a workshop about going beyond meditation. Sun., Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m. Free. Colorado Springs Eckankar Center, 1685 W. Uintah St., #100, 633-0453, eckankar-colorado.org.

Spiritual Guide, offering low-cost sessions to help participants "explore and deepen your spirituality, inner peace and well-being." Call 719/388-6490 to sign up.

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation, join for meditation and teaching on offerings practice with Venerable Sangpo. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free, or by donation. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 447-9880, tsling.org.

Weekly Spiritual Gathering, non-religious meetups with "laughter, song and great people." RSVP for more information. Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. By donation. 433-9625, kenpeacecarroll@gmail.com.

Sports&Recreation

Arm Balance Workshop, a two-part session focusing on the basics of good alignment, safe technique and setting up foundations for a variety of inversions and arm balance postures. At least one month of previous yoga experience recommended. Sat., Feb. 16, 2-3:30 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 23, 2-3:30 p.m. $15. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

Cancer Survivor Fitness Program, a basic eight-week strength and conditioning course. Dates/times flexible; call for more information. Phenom 1 Fitness, 1360 N. Academy Blvd., 330-4331, Lift4Life.org.

Colorado Springs Cruisers, easy, weekly rides that leave Lofty's by 10 and hit downtown spots like Zodiac, Triple Nickel Tavern, V Bar and others for a leisurely, 21-and-up bike ride. Thursdays, 9 p.m. Lofty's, 287 E. Fountain Blvd., #100, 520-0024, wfacebook.com/coscruisers.

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs,

PICK **Denver Art Museum,** 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 720/865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. *Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land*, a collection of 53 O'Keeffe works, including 15 rare items, depicting New Mexico and the Latino and Native American cultures the artist observed there. Through April 28.

685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

The Joy Ride, a weekly bicycle ride that begins at the tavern, travels three to six miles along a downtown route and ends up back at McCabe's for beer specials. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, upadowna.com.

SouthSide Johnny's Running Club, a running club with the added benefit of CrossFit, or "workouts comprised of constantly varied functional movements (like pushing, pulling, squatting, lifting, running) executed at high intensity." Wednesdays, 6 p.m. SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487, tinyurl.com/ssjrunning.

University Village Colorado Running Club, a club where you can run, jog or walk on one on-site loop of a single mile, or two others running north or south on the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail for four or six miles round-trip, respectively. Meet by Smashburger to check in. Mondays, 5:15 p.m. Free. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 632-5000, uvcrunningclub.com.

Stage

Dreamgirls, a Broadway performance of this stage adaptation of a blossoming Motown star. Through Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. $38-$58. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

The Hans Christian Andersen Storybook, a "tribute" to Andersen done with marionettes, wherein "the Ugly Duckling voices objections to his author." Through March 17. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

Love, an all-ages musical show that uses classic love songs to gently poke fun at dating, love and marriage. Dinner included; reservations required. Thurs., Feb. 14, 6 p.m. and Fri., Feb. 15, 6 p.m. $35. Olde Towne Carriage House, 102 S. Victoria Ave., Pueblo, 719/994-8298, sctcpueblo.com.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, a performance of the award-winning production from THEATREdART and Star Bar Players. Through Feb. 24. $5-$15. THEATREdART, 128 N. Nevada Ave., 357-8321, theatredart.org.

Prelude to a Kiss, a production of this Pulitzer Prize-nominated comedy in which a pair of newlyweds face new challenges when the bride switches bodies with an old man. Through Feb. 17. $15-$37. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

Red, a production of this two-man play following a year in the life of abstract-expressionist artist Mark Rothko as he works through a difficult commission. Talkbacks with the audience will be held after most performances; go online for dates. Through Feb. 17. $15-$35. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

Engineers Without Borders seeks volunteers to help with technical work and fundraising for its water project in Bolivia. E-mail or go online for more information. peisele@comcast.net, ewbcos.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed), healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. 265-1109.

Girls on the Run seeks adults interested in coaching girls grades 3-8 in training for a 5K beginning early March. Visit website for application. Through March 13. 331-1011, girlsontherunrockies.org.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, is seeking volunteers in various capacities, especially for help on the weekends, such as working in prescription animal therapy, courier duties, vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients) and Helping Hands volunteers who perform various chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry seeks donations of pet food and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talking to business sponsors and contacting local veterinary offices. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange seeks host families in El Paso County for English-speaking exchange students ages 15-18. P.I.E. works to match students with families who have similar interests and lifestyles. 866/546-1402.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center (SIAC). Time commitment: 4-7 hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) seeks volunteers to help with office duties as well as other programs offered by the organization. Call or go online for more info. 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

World Heritage seeks host families for this high school student exchange program. Students hail from Europe, Asia and the Americas. 800/888-9040, whhosts.com.

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Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Sheriff's deputies investigating a convenience-store robbery in Niceville, Fla., arrested suspect Zachariah Dalton Howard, 22, after spotting him at a nearby supermarket calling his mother for a ride home. (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*)

Police searching for thieves who broke into a home in Gaithersburg, Md., and then stole the homeowners' car for their getaway, spotted the vehicle at a nearby convenience store. The suspects were there because one of them, Marcus Lee, 20, stopped to use the bathroom, where he spent 11 minutes. "That 11-minute period is when the police come," prosecutor Stephen Chaikin explained after Lee pleaded guilty. (*The Washington Post*)

First things first

After a Seattle city bus hit Carl Gray, 32, shattering its windshield, the victim managed to get up and walk about a block with a bloodied head to a Starbucks and order a cup of coffee. Paramedics followed him and, before he could drink his brew, took him to the hospital. (*Seattle Times*)

Mensa rejects

Two 24-year-old men were badly injured after an oil storage tank exploded at a Texas facility while the victims were sitting on top of it smoking at 3 a.m. Van Zandt County Emergency Management Coordinator Chuck Allen said both victims were hospitalized, one on life support. The blaze destroyed three of the facility's six oil storage tanks and damaged the other three. (Associated Press)

Naming rites

Washington state lawmakers are considering a proposal to allow private bidders to pay for the right to name publicly owned facilities, from government buildings to schools. "I'm trying to think out of the box and come up with some revenue for our local folks and for our state that isn't another dollar out of taxpayers' wallets," state Rep. Jan Angel, who introduced the plan, said. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Naming rights are already common for sports venues, such as Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento, Calif., and Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena. Also, other states have approved similar measures. Virginia lawmakers, for example, last year passed legislation selling naming rights to bridges and roads. Virginia also signed a $2 million-a-year deal granting GEICO exclusive naming rights to its 43 rest areas. In New York City, the British bank Barclays is paying $200,000 a year for the naming rights to a Brooklyn subway station.

Angel's plan would continue letting governments name memorials after notable people for free. It also bans obscene or offensive names, as well as the names of tobacco or cannabis companies. (Associated Press)

Tree tracking

Hoping to thwart illegal logging in the Amazon, Brazil began fitting trees with wireless tracking devices that alert authorities when they are cut down and moved. The device, Invisible Tracck, is the size of a deck of cards and powered by a battery that lasts a year. Coming within 20 miles of a cellular network activates its signal. (Mongabay.com)

Anti-social media

A 16-year-old girl in Monticello, Ind., drove 60 miles in a pickup truck to beat up a 17-year-old girl in LaPorte, Ind., who she said spread rumors about her on Facebook. The victim's mother pulled the girls apart, and the Monticello girl left, but police arrested her later when they saw her return to the scene. (Associated Press)

Police accused Timothy Taylor and Shequita Cade of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after a YouTube video showed them driving their middle-school daughter to fight with a 14-year-old girl at a school bus stop in Tucker, Ga. Taylor can be heard on the video encouraging his daughter to hit the victim while the two struggled on the ground and shouting at witnesses, "Nobody better try to jump in neither." (Atlanta's WSB-TV)

Gun alternative

Police arrested Tammie Elaine Johnson, 49, who they said attacked a 44-year-old man in a parking lot in Athens, Ga., with a jar of olives. The arresting officer reported the victim, who was found bleeding from a cut near his eye, explained that they were arguing "because Tammie wanted to be with him, but he was not interested in her." (*Athens Banner-Herald*)

What are the odds?

While on a trip around the world, New Zealand attorney Jacob Marx, 27, was killed in England after high winds ripped off a 30-foot metal sign on a London betting shop, and it fell on him. (*London Evening Standard*)

Win-lose situations

Mexican-born Mirna Valenzuela won a $1,200 jackpot at Casino del Sol Resort in Tucson, Ariz., but when she tried to collect her winnings, casino officials called police because they thought her identification looked suspicious. Police determined the ID was legitimate but also discovered Valenzuela was in the country illegally. After she was deported, casino CEO Wendell Long said Valenzuela's winnings are being held at the casino and that she can claim them anytime she shows up in person. (Phoenix's *The Arizona Republic*)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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CannaBiz

Medical marijuana news of the week

Feds see ticking clock

On Monday, the **RAND Corporation's Drug Policy Research Center** (rand.org/multi/dprc.html) hosted a discussion in Washington, D.C., titled "Developing Public Health Regulations for Marijuana: Lessons from Alcohol and Tobacco." Topics ranged from regulation to spillover effects of marijuana availability in cities neighboring Washington and Colorado — thought to be slim, considering both states' generally low population density near their borders.

Carnegie Mellon University professor Jonathan Caulkins had an interesting response when asked if he felt the federal government could "shut down" marijuana trade in both states: "Well shut down, no," he said. "But does it have enough enforcement capacity — if it makes that its priority to fill in for state and local law enforcement — to push production back to what it was 12 months ago? Yes."

Caulkins said such an action would require a major reorientation of Department of Justice priorities, though, and if other larger states like California join the legalization push, "that capacity goes away."

Put out the fire

While medical-marijuana patient **Bob Crouse** received free legal representation in getting his marijuana returned by Colorado Springs police — and is getting more in his current civil suit against the city — he still racked up thousands of dollars in document fees, says cannabis advocate Audrey Hatfield. Those interested in helping should see fundly.com/bob-crouse-relief-fund.

Keef crumbs

• Sunday, the *Denver Post* reported the existence of **THC University** (thcuniversity.org), a new, Denver-based organization giving classes on the basics of growing.

"In addition to holding more classes in March, [owners Matt] Jones and [Freeman] LaFleur are working to create Job Board, a system where students who complete certificate programs can connect with dispensaries and other marijuana businesses that are looking for employees," wrote Jordan Steffen. "Currently, the law does not require any certification to grow marijuana plants."

• Denver cannabis advocate Michelle LaMay has spun her experience with her Cannabis University into a public-relations firm called **Enlightenment Colorado** (enlightenmentcolorado.com). When asked for comment on its goal, she directed us to her website, where it lists two registered lobbyists and says, "Our mission is DAMAGE CONTROL and keeping any [THC DUI] legislation from coming to the floor from any committee in upcoming Colorado legislative session of 2013."

House Bill 1114 creates a limit of 5 nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood, among other rules. It had its first House Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday and is generally expected to eventually become law.

— Bryce Crawford

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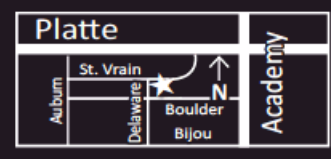

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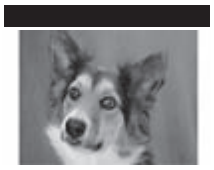

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Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 54

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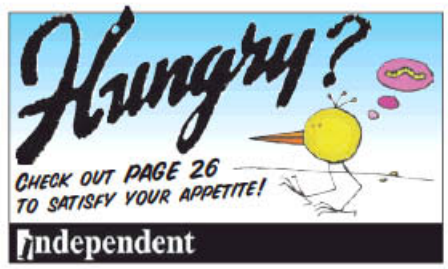

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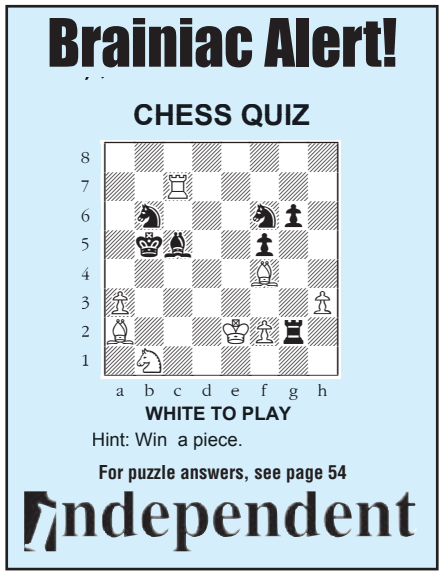

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AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

Vroom with a view

I'm a 34-year-old woman, dating a 27-year-old guy for three months. We have a great time together, but he's balking at making an official commitment, meaning he doesn't want to call us boyfriend and girlfriend. He says he feels we have long-term potential and doesn't want to date anyone else, but needs time to be sure about us so he doesn't get hurt again (as he did by his last girlfriend, whom he felt sure was "the one"). That makes sense, but the other day, he told me he loves me. How can he feel that way and still not consider us boyfriend/girlfriend? I'm in my 30s, and my friends are getting married, and I get down on myself sometimes for being single. Am I selling myself short by waiting? — On Hold

An impulsive relationship is something to have with a pack of mini-cupcakes in the supermarket checkout line. If they aren't all they seemed to be, you'll probably complain a little — that you wasted 79 cents, not the "best years of your life" and the last of your viable eggs.

OK, it's a little weird that a guy who blurts out "I love you" is squeamish about the B- and G-words, but keep in mind that the last woman he gave his heart to slammed it in the hurt locker. Also, people hate to fail and resist having their failures formalized. If he doesn't call you his girlfriend, maybe those won't be real tears you'll cry if you break up, and he won't have screwed up another relationship; he'll just have dated somebody awhile and moved on.

His insistence on taking it slow is a good thing.

But, even if he is driven by fear, his insistence on taking it slow is a good thing: It suggests he learns from his mistakes (an important quality to have in a B-word) and means he won't be that guy who calls you his girlfriend pronto and then treats you more and more like some woman he passed on his way to the men's room at the corner bar.

Because you can't know how long his holding-back period will last until he stops holding back, you can start to think the worst — that he's just toying with you or, even worse, that you'll have a mortgage and three kids together and he'll still be introducing you as "my lady friend." To allay your fears, mark a deadline in your head — perhaps two or three months from now — to see whether the relationship's progressed to a point you're more comfortable with and to bail if it hasn't.

During that time, try not to be so goal-focused that you forget to look critically at how compatible you two actually are and explore your own motivations. For any "official commitment" to last, you have to want him, specifically. It can't just be that he's your last chance to experience having everyone turn and gasp as you walk down the aisle — that is, unless you're in such a rush to get to church one Sunday that you put on stockings but forget to follow up by putting on pants.

Life in the fastened-to-her lane

Every woman I've ever had a relationship with has freaked over my friendships with other women. Even a relationship with someone I really loved ended because she couldn't stand my talking to and occasionally meeting up with female friends. There's nothing romantic going on with any of these friends, nor do I have any interest in anything ever happening, but explaining that is always hopeless. — Maligned

"Love is all you need," lied the Beatles. Sure, it might start out seeming that way. You meet that special someone, butterflies whirl, Disney woodland animals break into song, and you fall into bed and see no one but each other for three to six months. Eventually, however, you start to long for contact with other humans — not because your scruples are on the blink but because you've heard all of each other's most hilarious stories at least twice.

Most couples keep sexytime activities on the restricted list, but there will be many other interests you share with friends and not each other. Hanging with these friends doesn't threaten your relationship; it enhances it, making you more interesting to each other because you aren't each other's sole mental, social, and emotional watering hole. It takes a secure woman to understand this — one who needs you because she loves you and not because she skipped over building a self and is using you to cover up the empty slot.

A secure woman accepts that there's always a risk you'll leave her but understands that the best way to guarantee you will is to make you feel bonded to her — like a fly writhing out its last remaining hours on a strip of flypaper.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "All these years I've been searching for an impossible love," said French writer Marguerite Duras late in life. The novels and films she created reflect that feeling. Her fictional characters often engage in obsessive quests for an ideal romance that would allow them to express their passion perfectly and fulfill their longing completely. In the meantime, their actual relationships in the real world suffer, even as their starry-eyed aspirations remain forever frustrated. I invite you to celebrate this Valentine season by taking a vow of renunciation. Summon the courage to forswear Duras' doomed approach to love.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Afrikaner author Laurens van der Post told of a conversation between psychologist Carl Jung and Ochwiay Biano, a Pueblo Indian chief. Jung asked for Biano's views about white people. "White people must be crazy because they think with their heads," said the chief, "and it is well-known that only crazy people do that." Jung asked what the alternative was. Biano said his people think with their hearts. That's your assignment for the week ahead, Aries: to think with your heart — especially when it comes to love. For extra credit, you should feel with your head — especially when it comes to love. Happy Valentine Daze, Aries!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have you ever sent a torrent of smart and elegant love messages to a person you wanted to get closer to? Now would be an excellent time to try a stunt like that. Have you ever scoured the depths of your own psyche in search of any unconscious attitudes or bad habits that might be obstructing your ability to enjoy the kind of intimacy you long for? I highly recommend such a project right now. Have you ever embarked on a crusade to make yourself even more interesting and exciting than you already are? Do it now. Raise your irresistibility! Happy Valentine Daze, Taurus!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Happy Valentine Daze, Gemini! After careful meditation about what messages might purify and supercharge your love life, I decided to suggest what *not* to do. I'll quote some lines from Kim Addonizio's poem "Forms of Love." Please don't speak any out loud, or get yourself into a position where it makes sense to say them. 1. "I love how emotionally unavailable you are." 2. "I love you and feel a powerful spiritual connection to you, even though we've never met." 3. "I love your pain, it's so competitive." 4. "I love you as long as you love me back." 5. "I love you when you're not getting drunk and stupid." 6. "I love you but I'm married." 7. "I love it when you tie me up with ropes using the knots you learned in Boy Scouts, and when you do the stoned Dennis Hopper rap from *Apocalypse Now!*"

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This Valentine season, I suggest you consider trying an experiment like this: Go to the soulful ally you want to be closer to and take off at least some of your masks. Drop your pretenses, too. Shed your emotional armor and do without your psychological crutches. Take a chance on getting as psychologically and spiritually naked as you have ever dared. Are you brave enough to reveal the core truths about yourself that lie beneath the convenient truths and the expired truths and the pretend truths?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Sex is a substitute for God," says writer Cathryn Michon. "When we desire another human being sexually, we are really only trying to fill our longing for ecstasy and union with the infinite." I agree with her, and I think you might, too, after this week. Erotic encounters will have an even better chance than usual of connecting you to the Sublime Cosmic YumYum. If you can't find a worthy collaborator to help you accomplish this miraculous feat, just fantasize about one. You need and deserve spiritual rapture. Happy Valentine Daze, Leo!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lately you've been doing exemplary work on your relationship with yourself, Virgo. You have half-convinced your inner critic to shut the frack up unless it has a truly important piece of wisdom to impart. Meanwhile, you've managed to provide a small but inspired dose of healing for the wounded part of your psyche, and you have gently exposed a self-deception that had been wreaking quiet havoc. Congratulations! I've got a hunch that all these fine efforts will render you extra sexy and charismatic in the coming week. But it will probably be a subtle kind of sexiness and charisma that only the most emotionally intelligent people will recognize. So don't expect to attract the attention of superficial jerks who happen to have beautiful exteriors. Happy Valentine Daze!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The coming days could be an animalistic time for you, and I mean that in the best sense. I suspect you will generate lots of favorable responses from the universe if you honor the part of you that can best be described as a beautiful beast. Learn fun new truths about your instinctual nature. Explore the mysteries of your primal urges. See what you can decipher about your body's secret language. May I also suggest that you be alert for and receptive to the beautiful beast in other people? Happy Valentine Daze, Libra!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): For the French Scorpio poet Paul Valéry, swimming had an erotic quality. He described it as *fornication avec l'onde*, which can be translated as "fornicating with the waves." Your assignment this Valentine season, Scorpio, is to identify at least three activities that are like sex but not exactly sex — and then do them with glee and abandon. The purpose of this exercise is to educate and cultivate your libido; to encourage your kundalini to branch out as it intensifies and expands your lust for life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This Valentine season, meditate on the relentlessness of your yearning for love. Recognize the fact that your eternal longing will never leave you in peace. Accept that it will forever delight you, torment you, inspire you, and bewilder you — whether you are alone or in the throes of a complicated relationship. Understand that your desire for love will just keep coming and coming and coming, keeping you slightly off-balance and pushing you to constantly revise your ideas about who you are. Now read this declaration from the poet Rilke and claim it as your own: "My blood is alive with many voices that tell me I am made of longing."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): According to physicists Yong Mao and Thomas Fink, you can tie a necktie in 85 different knots, but only 13 actually look good. I encourage you to apply that way of thinking to pretty much everything you do in the coming week. Total success will elude you if you settle on functional solutions that aren't aesthetically pleasing. You should make sure that beauty and usefulness are thoroughly interwoven. This is especially true in matters regarding your love life and close relationships. Togetherness needs a strong dose of lyrical pragmatism. Happy Valentine Daze, Capricorn!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): To avoid getting hacked, computer tech experts advise you to choose strong, hard-to-guess passwords for online accounts. Among the worst choices to protect your security are "123456," "iloveyou," "qwerty," and, of course, "password." Judging by the current astrological omens, Pisces, I'm guessing that you should have a similar approach to your whole life in the coming days. It's important that you be picky about who you allow into your heart, mind and soul. Make sure that only the most trustworthy and sensitive people can gain access. Your metaphorical password might be something like this: m*y#s@t&e?r%y.

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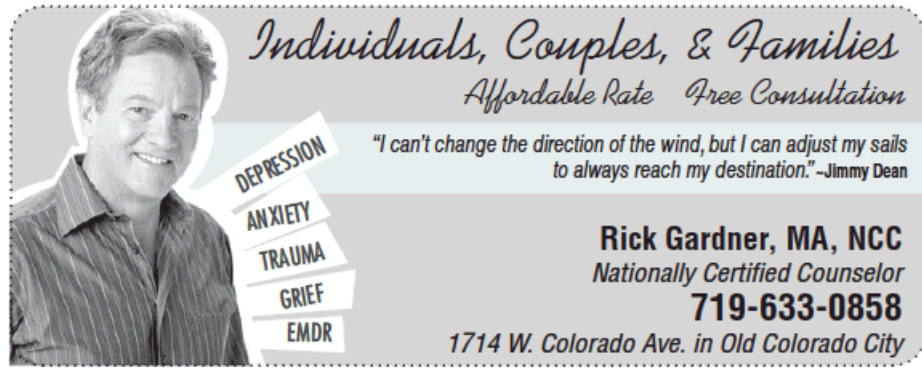
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12×		5–	11+	3	10×
2÷				2÷	
	11+		3÷		6
2÷		5		1–	2–
	5–	2÷			
5		1–		24×	

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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 54

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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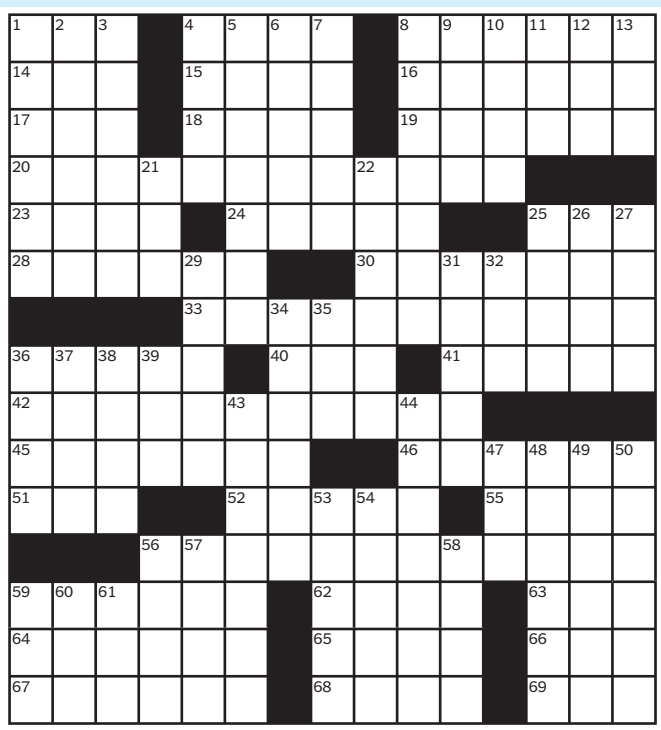

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 They get crunched in gyms
4 Pirate's loot
8 Insightful
14 Apple computer, informally
15 ___ and hearty
16 ___ Pieces
17 Hawaiian music maker, informally
18 The "U" in C.P.U.
19 Bleachers
20 Listening
23 Smallest Great Lake, by volume
24 Composer Bruckner
25 ___ rule (normally)
28 First player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame
30 "Mona Lisa" painter
33 Like the street grid of Midtown Manhattan
36 "___ mia!"
40 Nuclear agency established by H.S.T.
41 Yellowish brown, as a lion's coat
42 Oscar nominee for "As Good as It Gets"
45 Mail to the wrong address
46 Browns, as bread
51 6-point football scores
52 Gripper on an athlete's shoe
55 Emperor said to have fiddled while Rome burned
56 Apocalyptic warning … or a hint to 20-, 33- and 42-Across
59 What speeding cars do around turns
62 Sample recording
63 Dessert often served à la mode
64 Mistreats
65 Bar next to butter, maybe
66 Aliens, for short
67 Stinging plant
68 Pioneer's direction
69 Summer clock schedule: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Necklace charm
2 Establishment that makes a lot of dough?
3 Picturesque
4 Feng ___ (New Age concern)
5 Aspirant
6 Put in a row
7 Suggest
8 Munitions depot
9 ___ good example
10 Sign of sadness
11 Ensign's org.
12 Baseball great Williams
13 Suffix with shepherd
21 "In excelsis ___"
22 "Not gonna happen"
25 Once again
26 Read, as a bar code
27 Light and graceful
29 Slow a car down
31 In ___ fertilization
32 Once ___ while
34 Wick holder
35 Perfect diving score
36 Bosses, collectively: Abbr.
37 Dry as a bone
38 Meal in the military
39 Classic British roadsters
43 Infuriate
44 Occasionally
47 ___ Taylor (clothing retailer)
48 Oozed
49 Characteristics
50 Aching the most
53 Give funds for
54 Singer with the 7x platinum single "Rolling in the Deep"
56 Lab procedure
57 Dog trainer's "Follow!"
58 Chimney black
59 Bottle alternative
60 Lincoln, familiarly
61 Groove in a road

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 54 *From NYT Syndicate*

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2	1	6	3	5	7	9	4	8
9	5	8	4	1	6	2	7	3
3	2	4	7	6	8	5	9	1
6	7	1	5	9	2	8	3	4
8	9	5	1	4	3	7	2	6
5	4	3	2	7	1	6	8	9
1	6	2	9	8	4	3	5	7
7	8	9	6	3	5	4	1	2

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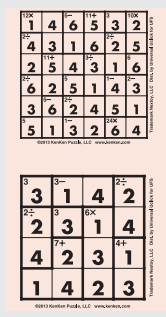

Crossword

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M	A	C		H	A	L	E		R	E	E	S	E	S
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N	E	T	T	L	E		W	E	S	T		D	S	T

CHESS QUIZ

From page 51:
1. Nc3ch! Ka6 2. Rxc5 [Landa-Ruck '12].

REAL ESTATE

Homes Central

1710 Dixon Dr. ~ $159,900
Updated 1814 sq ft 4 bed, 2 bath bi-level. 2 fireplaces. New carpeting, lighting, & 6 panel white doors. Fresh 2-toned paint. New vinyl windows & sliding glass door. Deck & covered patio. Xscaped front yard & large flat fenced rear yard w/ big trees. 1-car garage. MLS# 747798. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

2430 Palmer Park Blvd #108 ~$55,900
Affordable senior condo. Sparkling clean 512 sq ft 1 bed condo. Light, neutral, & cheery. Park like grounds. Complex is 55 or older. Club house elevators & security doors. MLS# 734633. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

Homes South

1740 Arbor Wy. ~ $349,900
7 year old 2615 sq ft 4 bed, 3 bath custom 2-story tucked away in Cheyenne Canyon. Over $40,000 in custom built-ins. Contemporary interior w/ traditional exterior. 2-car drive-through garage. Hot water heat. Lofted family room. All square footage is above grade w/ no bsmnt. Jetted tub. Fireplace. 2 master suites. 2x6 construction. D20 schools. MLS# 729086. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

Home For Sale
FSBO, veteran owned, 6bd/3ba/2 car, D-20, Nice Views, 2 decks, fenced yd. $185K. 6510 E. Wicklow Cir. 590-1799

Homes East

5076 Peak Villa Hts. ~ $209,900
Contemporary stucco 1668 sq ft 3 bed, 3 bath corner end unit townhome in gated complex. Eat-in island kitchen. Fin bsmnt w/ 3rd bed or office, family room, & full bath perfect for teenager/guests. A/C. Hardwood. Fireplace. Bay windows, built-ins, rounded, corners, skylights, & vaulted ceilings. Deck. HOAs cover all exterior maintenance. MLS# 763236. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

6120 Plowshare Ct. ~ $219,900
Professionally renovated contemporary 3 bed, 3 bath 2-story on corner lot. South facing driveway w/ no rear neighbors. New carpeting. Fresh paint inside & out . Updated kitchen & baths. Refinished hardwood floors. A/C. 2-story living room w/ gas log fireplace. Fully finished w/ over 2300 sq ft & 2-car garage. Deck. Immaculate. MLS# 735397. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

6924 Ash Creek Hts. #101 ~ $129,900
Perfect 2 bed, 1 bath ground floor condo in Village at Springs Ranch. 979 sq ft. Gas log fireplace. 9' ceilings w/ crown molding. Brand new carpet. Fresh 2-toned paint. Professionally cleaned. Rounded corners. Central air. Gated community w/ club house w/ exercise room & theatre. Outdoor pool. Carport. Dues are $136/month. All appliances included, even washer & dryer. MLS# 799664. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

WHAT TO DO?
The Independent has the best calendar of events in town. Check them out or submit your own at csindy.com.

Homes West

1521 W. Cucharras Street ~ $225,000
Turn of the century 1747 sq ft 2 bed, 2 bath 1 1/2-story w/ 576 sq ft upper level master suite addition w/ gas log fireplace, huge walk-in closet, & private tiled bath w/ jetted soaking tub. Office w/ glass front French doors (could be 3rd bed). Attic fan & A/C. Updated electrical, plumbing, & windows,. Remodeled kitchen. 2 1/2-car garage. Totally fenced. Gorgeous landscaping. MLS# 724097. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

Huge Ranch On The Westside!
1531 Chesham CR
Colorado Springs, 80907
5 Beds / 2 Baths / 2,885 sf / $250,000
Conveniently located close to Garden of the Gods, Ute Valley Park, shopping and Interstate 25. Backs to Open Space. Home is much larger than appearances – almost 3,000 square feet! Enjoy the amazing city views off the 200 square feet deck. Unique family area with a gas fireplace, dining room and kitchen all located in one room. Large formal living room. Vaulted ceilings. 500 square feet family room with a walk-out to the rear yard. Two beds and office in the lower level. Plus two storage rooms and bath rough-in. Call "Homes of Manitou Springs" for your tour! 719-685-1212.

Land for sale

ALL LAND LOTS $29,900-$275,000
Build & get away from it all! 20 beautiful available custom sites in Woodland Park, Black Forest, Ellicott, Peyton, Calhan, Falcon, Monument & Maizeland Moors. Ranging in price from $29,900 to $275,000 & from 1/2 an acre to over 5 acres. Some with views, trees & walkouts. Call for list of specifics that we can email to you. MLS# multiple. Please view at www.bobbiprice.com. Call Bobbi Price, The Platinum Group 499-9451

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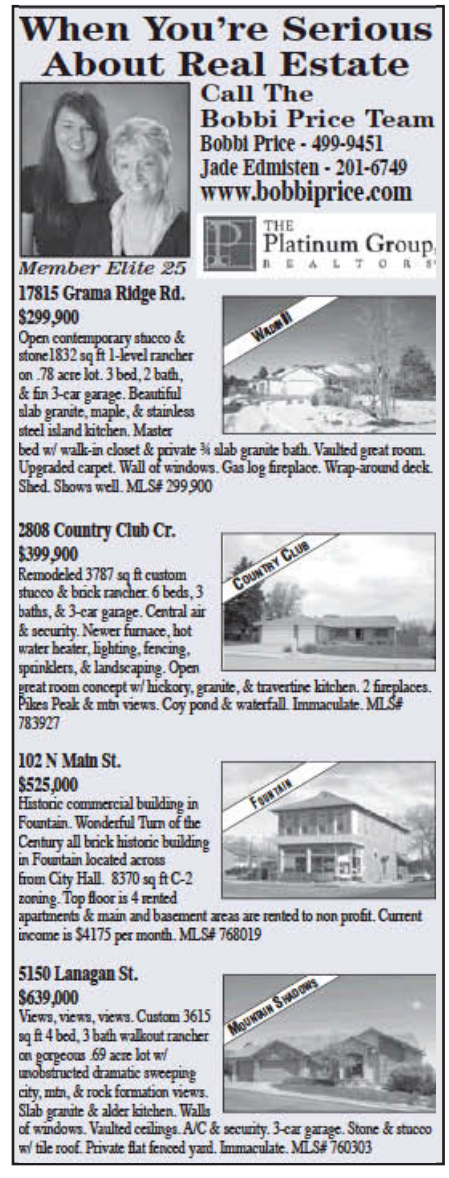
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17815 Grama Ridge Rd.
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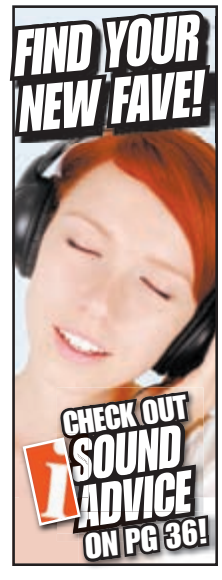
Open contemporary stucco & stone1832 sq ft 1-level rancher on .78 acre lot. 3 bed, 2 bath, & fin 3-car garage. Beautiful slab granite, maple, & stainless steel island kitchen. Master bed w/ walk-in closet & private ¾ slab granite bath. Vaulted great room. Upgraded carpet. Wall of windows. Gas log fireplace. Wrap-around deck. Shed. Shown well. MLS# 299,900
2808 Country Club Cr.
$399,900
Remodeled 3787 sq ft custom stucco & brick rancher. 6 beds, 3 baths, & 3-car garage. Central air & security. Newer furnace, hot water heater, lighting, fencing, sprinklers, & landscaping. Open great room concept w/ hickory, granite, & travertine kitchen. 2 fireplaces. Pikes Peak & mtn views. Coy pond & waterfall. Immaculate. MLS# 783927
102 N Main St.
$525,000
Historic commercial building in Fountain. Wonderful Turn of the Century all brick historic building in Fountain located across from City Hall. 8370 sq ft C-2 zoning. Top floor is 4 rented apartments & main and basement areas are rented to non profit. Current income is $4175 per month. MLS# 768019
5150 Lanagan St.
$639,000
Views, views, views. Custom 3615 sq ft 4 bed, 3 bath walkout rancher on gorgeous .69 acre lot w/ unobstructed dramatic sweeping city, mtn, & rock formation views. Slab granite & alder kitchen. Walls of windows. Vaulted ceilings. A/C & security. 3-car garage. Stone & stucco w/ tile roof. Private flat fenced yard. Immaculate. MLS# 760303



EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Parcells: It all started here

Many will call it foolish to suggest that **Bill Parcells**, just named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, should think of Colorado Springs as the turning point of his remarkable coaching career. But they don't know Parcells' story.

It's true that Parcells had been an assistant at five schools, including Florida State and Texas Tech, before coming to Air Force as head coach in 1978, replacing the legendary **Ben Martin**. But his time in the Springs set the stage for Parcells becoming one of the National Football League's most influential figures.

Only a few head coaches can claim two Super Bowl rings (with the New York Giants) and other playoff experiences, making history during 20-plus years of running the show with such famed franchises as New York's Giants and Jets, the New England Patriots, Dallas Cowboys and finally, as an executive, the Miami Dolphins.

But none of that would have happened if not for Parcells' experiences here, as he has admitted on several occasions. He thought he would become a big-time college coach, but that dream ended at the academy — and actually led him to consider other options locally before embracing the NFL.

He started his AFA tenure putting together a staff who would go far: **Ken Hatfield**, the offensive coordinator and later head coach at Air Force, Arkansas, Clemson and Rice; **Al Groh**, the defensive coordinator who eventually would be in charge of Wake Forest, the Jets and the University of Virginia; **Ray Handley**, who would replace Parcells as head coach of the Giants; **Walt Harris**, later head coach at Pitt and Stanford; and other respected coaches such as **Denny Fryzel, Tom Backhus and Bobby Trott**.

Parcells' year at Air Force produced a 3-8 record, and I'll never forget walking off the Falcon Stadium field with him after the final home game, a 42-21 loss to Georgia Tech with GT star **Eddie Lee Ivery** running for an NCAA-record 356 yards. "This job is going to take a while," Parcells said that day, but a few months later he decided he wasn't the right person. He enjoyed the cadets and got along well with fellow New Jersey native Col. **John Clune**, the AFA athletic director, but battled the limitations and what he saw as lack of commitment from the military.

Just a few weeks before 1979 spring practice, Parcells suddenly accepted a job as a defensive assistant for the Giants. Hatfield took over at Air Force, adding to that staff such later-recognizable names as **Chan Gailey** and **Fisher DeBerry**, and led the Falcons toward what has become three decades of near-constant success.

But that wasn't the end of Parcells' time here. When he bolted from Air Force, his wife and kids stayed here to finish that school year. They didn't want to leave, and within a few months, Parcells was back again, leaving the Giants before training camp and returning to Colorado Springs as what he later would call "athletic director" at Gates Land Co. and the Country Club of Colorado.

During that 1979 season, Parcells moonlighted doing commentary for local high school football broadcasts on KRDO-AM. He would come to the Garry Berry Stadium press box, wearing an overcoat with a flask inside to spice up the hot chocolate or coffee, and we'd talk football at all levels. Fascinating, to say the least.

His family was happy, but he wasn't. So when the NFL called again in 1980, Parcells was gone to New England for a year, then to the Giants. He became their head coach in 1983, and the rest is history.

Parcells never forgot Colorado Springs. Whenever we've bumped into each other, he's stopped to reminisce. He always felt proud of that AFA staff he assembled, and he singled out players such as quarterback **Dave Ziebart**, linebacker **Tom Foertsch** and defensive end **Dave Scott**. To Parcells, those Falcons' commitment and spunk put them right alongside NFL stars he coached, from **Lawrence Taylor** and **Phil Simms** to **Curtis Martin**, **Keyshawn Johnson** and more.

Where would Bill Parcells have gone if he hadn't spent those two years in Colorado Springs? We'll never know, but we do know that he left here determined to succeed at football's highest level —which is exactly what he did.

— routon@csindy.com

SPORTS SHOT

It's here Sunday will be the Colorado Rockies' first full-team workout in Arizona, with exhibitions starting Feb. 23.

Huge weekend After a basketball sweep at Oregon and Oregon State, Colorado faces a home test, Thursday vs. Arizona (Pac-12 Net) and Saturday vs. Arizona State (ESPNU).

Encore? If college hockey playoffs began this week, Colorado College would be on the road for a first-round series at, yes, Denver.

Target With money for free agents, the Denver Broncos should find an inside linebacker and leader, like Chicago's Brian Urlacher.

RENTALS

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DOWNTOWN OFFICES
Some overlook Tejon St. Starting @ $225 /mo gross -incl Janitorial! Up to 1,400 sf avail. Call 520-1515

Rentals Central

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4 bd 2 ba 1,800 sf, hardwood on main level. $1,400/mo. Avail April 1st. 719-351-0006

3BD, 2BA+Den House, $1100
Studio $395 + elec., 4-Plex Airport / Academy $675 +elec., Downtown. 4 bedroom $1100. 550-0010.

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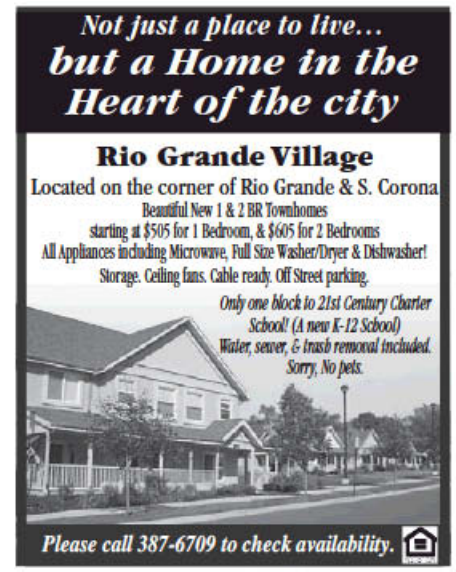
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2012 IIHS Top Safety Pick	**YES**	YES	YES	NO
City/Highway Miles Per Gallon	**21city / 27hwy**	22city / 30hwy	23city / 33hwy	22city / 26hwy
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*Based on Polk registration data in the U.S. 2002-2012. – Based on manufactures' website data as of January 2013 for the 2013 Subaru Forester 2.5X Premium , 2013 Honda CR-V EX 4WD, 2013 Ford Escape XLS 4WD, 2013 Nissan Rogue SV. **MSRP excludes destination and delivery charges, tax title and registration fees. Dealer sets actual price. ***EPA-estimated fuel economy for Forester 2.5X models. Actual mileage may vary.

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